

Cheadle Hulme



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2006

Editor: George Rogers

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This being our first newsletter of 2006, I hope you all have a very happy year and enjoy good health.

In reviewing the past year for Cheadle Hulme U3A overall it has been satisfactory and successful. Membership reached 200 and whilst that is the same as the previous year it does indicate an acceptable level of new members compensating for those who have resigned due to leaving the area etc.

At our last meeting in January, 93 members renewed their membership. It always takes a while to get all the renewals in. This compares favourably with our January 2005 meeting when 73 people attended and not all of those renewed their membership at that time.

During the year our activities showed a pleasing increase with new groups being set up. These include Board Games initiated by Margaret Bohl, Swimming led by Carole Formilli and a Technology Group under Ian Reid. There is also a French Group for which I am nominally the Co-ordinator but de facto normally an absentee. My personal thanks go to Margaret Crowther who steps in on the many occasions that I have been unable to attend. So we now have 25 groups covering a wide range of activities to stimulate our minds, bodies and

digestions, as well as providing enjoyment for all participants.

Our thanks go to all Co-ordinators for their leadership and input.

At the beginning of 2005 we welcomed on to the Committee Margaret Maude and George Rogers and both have been making useful contributions on your behalf.

Unfortunately ill health has also taken its toll on your Committee during 2005. In the spring your Secretary, Dorothy Doyle, underwent major surgery. We are now delighted to have her back with us and in spite of still convalescing she has been able to resume some of her Committee work for you. In the autumn our Speakers' Secretary, Bernadette Murray-Robb was taken ill and spent some weeks in hospital. However we are all very happy that she has now recovered and is back with us. Unfortunately, that more or less coincided with our Treasurer, Tony Hillier, being taken ill and I am sure that I am speaking for everyone in wishing him a speedy recovery and in hoping he will soon be back with us. However this does mean that we are unable to submit the annual accounts to you at this time. They will be made available as soon as possible. I can tell you, however, that at our last Committee meeting in January our financial situation was satisfactory.

Our Charity last year was Francis House Children's Hospice. We set a target of

£500 and just beat it. In achieving it our thanks go to all who have worked in fund raising by donating books, jams, cakes etc. with special thanks to Margaret Molineau. She not only provided a constant supply of excellent jams for our charity table, but also made and donated a magnificent Christmas cake, which contributed to our fund raising at our Christmas party.

We are losing two Committee members. In accordance with our Constitution our Secretary, Dorothy Doyle, stands down on completion of her term. Also Pat Cummings, our Newsletter Editor, has tendered her resignation in order to reduce her commitments. On behalf of all of us I would like to thank both ladies for their valuable contributions and hard work. George Rogers has kindly agreed to undertake the editorship of our newsletter.

Our monthly meetings have been well supported with an average of 80 attendees. A number of our speakers have commented favourably to me on the size of the audience. This is, I am sure, due to the friendly and welcoming environment of our Group and to the high quality and subject interest of the speakers arranged for you by Bernadette Murray-Robb.

My best wishes to you all and we look forward to your continued support of Cheadle Hulme U3A. If you have any suggestions for new groups and would like to start one to cater for your interests please let the Committee know. Also please do let us know if you have any ideas for further development and improvement of Cheadle Hulme U3A.

Paul Leigh

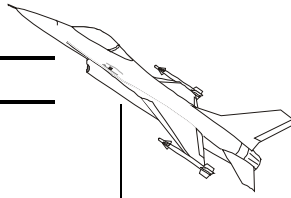
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY !

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
2 March	Who were the few ? The Battle of Britain	Geoffrey Simpson
6 April	Behind the Scenes at the Trafford Centre	Alison Reid

The above Members' Meetings will be held at 2pm in the Methodist Church Hall on Station Road, Cheadle Hulme, on the first Thursday of each month, unless otherwise indicated.

VISITORS: *Potential members are allowed one visit without joining, and need to pay £1 on that occasion. Other visitors, including those from other U3As, can come a maximum of three times a year and need to pay £1 each time for the Cheadle Hulme U3A's costs to be covered.*

TECHNOLOGY GROUP



The third meeting of this new Group was held at Arthur Baker's house on the 22nd November when two subjects were covered (one could say two for the price of one or buy one get one free!).

The first topic "Energy Supplies" was the viewing and subsequent discussion of a video Ian had loaned from the U3A National Office Library. Although of a rather basic standard it did evoke "school day study memories" for some and so discussion on basic power generation and distribution followed.

After a break the next topic presented by Errol was "Electrical Building Services Design". He briefly touched on three design elements that constitute the professional building parameters for industrial, commercial and, indeed, domestic complexes that must be integrated with other professional disciplines to create the engineering design concepts we see today.

The talk was supplemented with typical working drawings, specifications, calculations and photos and concluded with questions and answers.

The following meeting on the 24th January was again at Arthur's home

when he gave a talk on "The development of a new Prescriptive Drug". Arthur skilfully guided us through historical events and dates, the massive maze of rules and regulations, very stringent government legislation and other guidelines and then on to marketing.

A huge and very complicated subject, full of facts, figures and statistics, all outlined in about forty minutes, captivated the thirteen members present.

The general parameters of Arthur's presentation were the history of drug development pre World War II to the present, encompassing the 50's – 80's in particular as the golden age of drug development; the absolutely huge research and development costs; drug patent life; National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) and their involvement; the principles of pharmaceutical R&D; adverse side effects versus beneficial effects of a drug; tests on animals and humans; principles of clinical trials; full reports to Health Authorities and concluding with marketing.

After a break many questions and answers flowed freely indicating, we feel, that Arthur had really captivated his listeners.

Errol and Carole Formilli

If you are interested in joining the Technology Group please contact

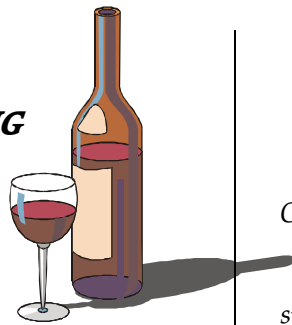
IAN REID

Technology Group programme diary events: -

March 6 th	Manchester Bridgewater Hall – a Faraday Lecture “ Emission Impossible”. Meet 1.30 pm at Reception Area for 2pm start FREE - Just phone 01438 767 302 or www.faraday.org.uk
March 28 th	Illustrated talk by Ian Reid titled “Grandchildren’s Legacy” – a cool look at Global Warming Venue – Heald Green Public Hall, Outwood Road at 2pm.
April	Visit to Virtualis, Sale – A virtual reality CAD Specialist Company. Date and full details to follow.

PLEASE NOTE! After April, the Group will not meet again until the autumn except for a summer visit to the famous Anderton Canal Boat Lift at Northwich - subject to sufficient numbers. Details to be announced.

EARLY EVENING DINING GROUP 1



Before taking a break in December (to prepare for the Christmas festivities), a fun evening in Italy was enjoyed – albeit having travelled no further than Poynton. The New Year kicked off with a sociable Chinese banquet – not a knife and fork in sight following instruction in the use of chopsticks at a Japanese restaurant recently.

A new broom – Walter Fitzpatrick, has taken over the helm as co-ordinator, with various group members “volunteering” to organise a meal at a venue of their choice.

The last three years have been fun, but the future will be good. Over to you Walter.

Chris Read



I will take over from Chris Read as the co-ordinator after the February 2006 meal.

On behalf of the members of the group, I thank Chris for all the dedicated hard work that she has put in to make it such an outstanding success. I cannot offer the same level of commitment and will act only as the co-ordinator. Chris found the restaurants, organised the meals and co-ordinated all the supporting activities. **Thank you, Chris!**

It will now be the responsibility of individual members (or pairs/groups) to organise events e.g. Leslie and Barbara Davies have kindly offered to organise a meal at Aspire Restaurant Bar, South Trafford College on Thursday, 23rd March 2006. We still require volunteers to organise meals for July onwards. Please contact me in person, so that I can draw up a rota for future events. The only guidelines are reasonable travelling distances and a guideline maximum of approximately £13.00 per head (excluding tea/coffee or other drinks)

Walter Fitzpatrick

Visits to Rochdale & Manchester

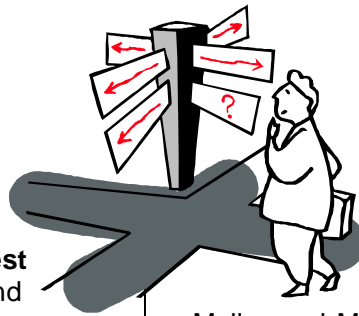
On 20th April Vera Lees has arranged a trip to the Fudge Factory and the Co-operative Pioneers Museum in Rochdale. This was billed as including a trip to Rochdale Town Hall but they were unable to accommodate us on this occasion. If there is still sufficient interest in the Town Hall we will attempt to arrange a trip later in the year. We will meet at the car park at Swann Lane. The fee payable to drivers will be £2 per head and the Pioneers Museum is free. The Fudge Factory is £10.99, which includes samples of the fudge and lunch. The latest date for names and money is the monthly meeting in March.

It has also been proposed that we take a trip to the Refuge building in Manchester. This is now the Palace Hotel. The trip includes a blue guide and can include afternoon tea. The numbers are limited to ten and there will be an interest sheet available at the March meeting, with, we hope a proposed date.

The trips committee would like to point out to members that these events take a lot of background work and we realise that there is a reluctance to commit ourselves too far in advance. Members do need to appreciate however that many of our visits involve organisations that run these events for their living and need to be guaranteed numbers to make a trip viable.

THE WALKING GROUP

2005 was one of the driest years for a long time and another good year for the walkers, ending with a familiar but still enjoyable walk from Buxworth and above Whaley Bridge in December. The morning walk was far enough and sufficiently energetic to work up a good appetite for our Christmas Lunch. So it was an animated and cheerful group, which arrived back at the Navigation Inn on the 'Bugsworth Basin'. Linda and Allan, the proprietors, had organised a good 'Advent Fayre' menu and created a festive atmosphere. With twenty-five set places the group was almost back to full strength as our travellers and wanderers had returned from distant journeys; it was a lively and jolly occasion.



Keith Crowther organised the November walk from Mellor and Margaret Crowther led the January walk through Manchester from Piccadilly station, a fascinating urban walk. We now have six walk leaders to share the task of planning, testing, organising and leading our monthly walks. In this way the group has continued to evolve and our shared experiences and co-operative efforts have produced a variety of interesting and enjoyable excursions into some of the best walking country in Britain.

Some new members have joined us this year, so just to remind us all, we meet on the second Wednesday of the month, not to be confused with the third Wednesday walks. We get together on the United Reformed Church car park on Swann Lane to

arrange transport and give out route directions at 9.30 a.m. We suggest a contribution of £1 for a round trip of 30 miles and £2 for sixty miles from all passengers towards petrol. Most of the walks are within 30 miles of Cheadle Hulme, but may be a little further away in summer. The walks are usually between four and five miles, with fairly easy gradients. We arrange to finish at a suitable pub in time for lunch for those who are not in a hurry to get home that day.

The walks are announced at the U3A general monthly meeting the week before the second Wednesday. They are also announced on the previous month's walk. If you are interested in somewhat more strenuous and longer walks contact John Anderton about the Third Wednesday walks.

Derek Weedon

November: Fifteen members set out at 9.30 a.m. from Swann Lane and drove via Marple and Marple Bridge to park at the 'Devonshire Arms' at Top Mellor

The walk was approximately 4 miles. We climbed the hill to Mellor Church to admire the view over Stockport and Manchester. In the churchyard stands the remains of a Saxon cross, which now forms the base of a sundial. We then followed the footpath, muddy in places, up to Shiloh Road and the cross-roads on the border of Cheshire and Derbyshire. Here we had a coffee break. Our road then went along to Cobden Edge with great views to the North, East and West.

John Wesley wrote of Cobden Edge in his diary on Sunday 28th April 1745 "*.. thence we rode to the Bongs (Banks) in Derbyshire, a lone house on the side of a high, steep mountain, wither abundance of people were got before us. I preached God's justifying the ungodly.*" John Wesley stayed overnight at the cottage and on waking and standing at the door next morning he said that the view was like

paradise. The name of the cottage was changed to 'Paradise Cottage' in memory of that visit. The churches of the district erected Cobden Cross in 1969 on the spot where it is believed he preached. The highest point in Mellor, just above the cross, is 1,012 feet above sea level.

We then descended via Tarden back to the 'Devonshire Arms' where we had an excellent lunch. The weather had been terrible on the previous day, with continuous heavy rain. We, however, were fortunate in that the sun shone brightly, the air was clear and we had marvellous views. The vote of thanks at the end of lunch acknowledged a very enjoyable walk.

Keith Crowther

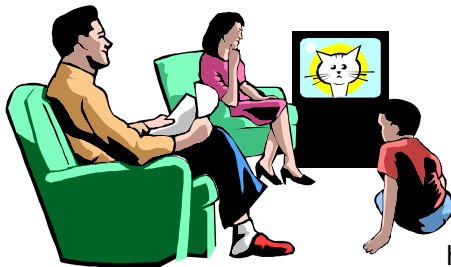
January. 24 members (a larger group than usual) met on a sunny morning in Piccadilly Station, Manchester. We looked at the Rochdale Canal Basin, went through the Northern Quarter and Victoria Station, hearing a little history en route, then to the Cathedral Visitors' Centre for morning coffee. Once refreshed, we crossed the river Irwell into Salford and back to Manchester over the new footbridge next to the Lowry Hotel. We then made our way via Bridge Street and Liverpool Road to the Castlefield Basin and followed the canal towpath to Oxford Street, where we had a pub lunch. Refuelled, we continued along the towpath to Canal Street, which we followed to return to our starting point. Throughout the walk the variety of buildings new and old and the way many of the old buildings have been adapted for modern use, made a great impression on us all. Again the vote of thanks gave recognition to a different and very interesting type of walk.

Margaret Crowther

Keith's November walk and Margaret's January walk proved to be very popular; they not only extended our range of walks but they both introduced a new focus of interest. Keith's Mellor walk had both an historical and literary interest. The urban walk organised and led by Margaret focused on architectural detail and had an historical interest that emphasised how little most of us look at and really see when we go into

our City. Our walks are essentially about getting out in the open air, enjoying the physical activity of walking and socialising. Nevertheless there is so much of interest in our local area; in its industrial archaeology, its social history and its natural history and quite often someone in the group is prepared to contribute and share knowledge and understanding of such things with us.

Derek Weedon



Armchair Zzzz Walks

Whilst planning one of our "Third Wednesday" Group walks recently, I happened to revisit the Cheshire County Council web site. There has long been a selection of walks in the County – hidden under the heading "Countryside", on the

Culture, Leisure and Tourism tab – but here was something new. Could this be the answer for Internet-using armchair walkers?

If you're curious, just key the following line into the Internet Explorer browser search address box:

www.cheshire.gov.uk/

Now, as you drag the mouse down the page, you'll see a whole lot of items that can be accessed, just by clicking when the cursor symbol changes from an arrow to a hand. However, just look at the list, on a blue background, at the left of the page. It is here you will find the "*Culture, Leisure and Tourism*" title. Click on this and next seek out and click on the words: "*Step into Cheshire*", hidden in the middle of the second line, beneath the heading

Having arrived at "*Step into Cheshire*" (don't give up now, you're nearly there) scroll down the page and click on, the second of three lines –

Walking and riding routes in Cheshire

Tegg's Nose Virtual Walks - take a walk around Tegg's Nose Country Park without leaving your armchair!

A Song For Cheshire – listen to the Step Into Cheshire theme song!



If anyone finds this more difficult than Sudoku, and needs help just give me a call, whereupon I shall replace my woolly walking hat with an IQ-reducing baseball cap, take on the guise of U3A Personal Computer Group Silver Surfer, and try to be helpful. Incidentally, it obviously isn't necessary to own a computer in order to have access to the World Wide Web. Visiting Cheadle library to change the library books the other day there seemed to be just as many people browsing the Internet as there were browsing over books.

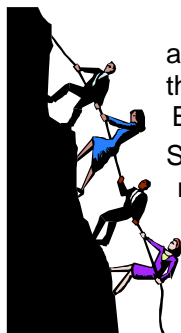
John Anderton

“Third Wednesday” Walkers

From the description, it looked like an interesting circular route, starting from a Stockport beauty spot (discovered one hot summer’s day, while exploring with our two young children, as newcomers to the North West 25 years earlier). This was a walk I very much wanted to complete. I had attempted it on my own the previous winter, but, after walking out paths for a U3A group Spring walk, it was already midday when I left the boundary of the park to climb the side of a steep clough. At about the half-way point, around three in the afternoon, it had begun to snow. It was becoming darker by the minute so, discretion being the better part of valour, I made a rapid return the way I had come, back to the start – through a dark and eerily deserted Etherow Country Park. Lights from cottage windows and the twinkling street lamps of Compstall village looked very warm and welcoming on the last lap back to my solitary car, parked beside the lake.

The second attempt was an altogether more enjoyable experience; though the weather hadn’t improved over much I was in the best of company – besides which I now had a map and a compass!

Regular, second Wednesday monthly walks, already an established U3A favourite, had rekindled a love for rambling I’d known as a youngster – a pleasure almost forgotten and rarely exercised during many warm and happy years overseas and subsequent workaholic years here in the sceptred isle. So it was out of a strong desire to fit an extra walk into the month that six third-age strollers, from the existing group, took the first third Wednesday walk on 20th October, 2004 – a six-and-a-half mile, moderate-grade hike, from Etherow Country Park, a real “up-



and-downer” in autumn rain, climbing the hillsides on both sides of the Etherow River Valley.

Since then, our little band from the ranks of the main walking group – a dozen or so veteran Peak District walkers (of whom, being a Midlander, I am probably the least experienced) – have continued taking walks on each third Wednesday of the month. Travelling a little further afield during summer, we complete circular “C” walks of between five and seven miles, of easy or moderate grade, that are perhaps a little more strenuous than the main U3A group walks.

Well-documented and in popular walking country, our walks are rarely reconnoitred in advance. Indeed, several have been to areas we have wanted to explore to determine their suitability for the larger group. It can be very interesting and all part of the fun when, deep into a walk, the route description and diagram, that had appeared to agree with lines on an O.S. map, no longer seem to match the ground being walked. That said, we wouldn’t feel cheated if ever we had to admit defeat, turn round and return to the start. We take the precaution of carrying food and drink with us for refuelling along the way, not that any such provision has ever been allowed to preclude the well-established practice of visiting any suitable hostelry that might appear at the end of our route. We seem to be of one mind on the importance of replacing the calories whilst enjoying the great outdoors – even when recently it entailed picnicking in a car park in the rain (or was it low flying cloud?) before retreating to the Clarence hotel in nearby Greenfield . . . but that’s another story . . . and if it wasn’t fun we wouldn’t do it.

John Anderton

**FAMILY HISTORY
GROUP**



Here is a summary of the work the Family History Group has done so far on their project relating to Cheadle Hulme War Memorial.

Several people have taken some names listed on the War Memorial, which are also shown on www.cheadlehulme.net and are looking through census material. This is a first step in identifying who were brought up (as were their families) in Cheadle Hulme, and those who came into the leafy area from all over the country as they acquired city related employment rather than that related to agriculture or silk weaving.

We also enjoyed a visit to Stockport Library where the Archivist provided us with a very interesting talk. She produced items from their archives that could be interesting not only to our project but anyone studying family history. There were copies of 19th century maps, books relating to Cheadle

Hulme showing the types of jobs undertaken by people living there, as well as information in regard to the censuses, most of which are available on the internet and from other sources.

At our February meeting we will collate this information and plot our way forward with this project.

If anyone is interested in joining the Group they will be most welcome even if they are complete beginners. There are people who will be only too pleased to help.

Incidentally if anyone in the U3A is interested in looking at the details of the War Memorial through the Cheadle Hulme website listed above, they will discover fascinating information by clicking on the War Memorial icon and then clicking on the individual names.

Mr J Hartley has researched an amazing amount of information in regard to the individual's service career during World War I

Judith Durrant and Gillian Rowe



NEWSLETTER ITEMS ALWAYS WELCOME

Remember – IT IS YOUR NEWSLETTER !

If you would like items published in the Newsletter, please hand them to the Newsletter Editor at one of the Members' Meetings

Closing date for copy for the next Newsletter is at the Members Meeting on Thursday 6th April