

**A Happy New Year to all our members!**

### **Monthly Meetings**

**Monthly meetings at St Andrew's Church are suspended for the time being. Their resumption will depend on Government advice and the arrangements made at St Andrew's. The following meetings are on the Zoom platform.**

Thursday 7th January:           **Steve and Carol Robson - Fool's Gold - Stories and Music**

Carol and Steve Robson are musicians who have been presenting their mixed story/image/ live music shows to audiences all over the UK. Often their shows have a theme and include well-known and original music. They began in the folk clubs of the North East of England, which probably explains why some of the songs are about coal mining!

**Carol Plays:** Flute, Tenor Guitar, Bass Guitar, Whistles and voice. **Steve Plays:** Guitars, Ukulele, Bouzouki and voice

Thursday 4th February:           **Annual General Meeting**

**If you are interested in attending these ZOOM sessions, please contact Neil Rackham [neil.rackham@me.com](mailto:neil.rackham@me.com) who will supply the access codes just before the meeting.**

### **Committee News**

Your Committee has met using Zoom virtual meeting technology.

A new website has been trialled and will be replacing the current version shortly. The website address remains the same: [chu3a.org.uk](http://chu3a.org.uk)

Nominations are required for Committee members ahead of the AGM. Nomination forms have been sent out by post. If you have not received one please contact Walter FitzPatrick.

This Newsheet has been in the same format for some time and would benefit from a refresher. If you would like to assist with this task, particularly if you have a design background, then we would like to hear from you.

A reminder that the Committee decided to set the membership fee for 2021 at £10 in recognition of the fact that a full range of activities has not been possible in the past year. The 2021 membership fees are payable by bank transfer as well as by cheque. The banking details are on the renewal form.

If you feel that you could contribute to the running of Cheadle Hulme U3A and would like to serve on the Committee, please contact Neil at [neil.rackham@me.com](mailto:neil.rackham@me.com).

## Notice of AGM

The Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday 4th February 2021 at 2pm using Zoom technology. Joining instructions will be sent out nearer the time.

### 2020 Committee

Neil Rackham	Chairman
Shirley Cawthra	Vice-Chairman
Bernadette Murray-Robb	Secretary
Walt Denning	Treasurer
Walter FitzPatrick	Membership Secretary
Sue Cuffe	Groups Co-ordinator
John Broadbent	Audio-Visual
Pat Vermes	Events
Elisabeth Jefferies	Minutes Secretary

### Joining our u3a meetings on Zoom

So far, over 60 members of Cheadle Hulme u3a have joined one or more of our on-line activities, whether that is a group meeting, a general meeting, a quiz or one of the other events over the Christmas period. Whilst we are all keen to meet up again in person, it is clear that we will need to continue on Zoom for some months yet. So, we are encouraging all our members to join us on-line - it is a good (and easy) way to keep up some form of contact with your u3a friends. If 60 members have made it, we are sure you could.

For those who have not joined us yet, it would be useful to know why – is it that you don't have the equipment, not sure what you need to do, are concerned about the on-line world or some other reason. Do let us know so that we can see what can be done. Just 'phone or email:

Neil Rackham	<a href="mailto:neil.rackham@me.com">neil.rackham@me.com</a>
or John Broadbent	<a href="mailto:john.broadbent@stcatz.oxon.org">john.broadbent@stcatz.oxon.org</a>
or Roger Law	<a href="mailto:roger@lawfamily.com">roger@lawfamily.com</a>

Whether you are yet to give it a go or you want to gain more confidence, the following link to information from BT would be worth exploring. There are short introductions for beginners covering areas such as using the internet, watching and listening online, using email, using a touchscreen. Just put your cursor on this link [Basics for Absolute Beginners](#) then press Control (CTRL) and Click (or tap if you are on a touch-sensitive device), then scroll down the web page to choose what interests you.

## **From the Chairman**

Well I hope you have had a good and safe Christmas, albeit quieter than usual, and are now looking forward to the New Year.

The coming year will start in some form of lockdown that we have been used to for months, even though it seems like years. At least with the vaccine now being distributed, the prospect of being able to meet people face to face in safety and to restart our meetings, both group and general meeting, at some time this year should, hopefully, give us all a lift of spirits.

So here's to the New Year with hope of improvement in our well being.

On a different topic, when you have time, please check out our new web site. You will find it at the same location as previously, [chu3a.org.uk](http://chu3a.org.uk), but with a new look for the new year. All the groups are represented with a page for each group. Also on the individual group pages is a link to contact the group leader to discuss current group activities. On the front page is a rolling window which shows topics such as the current covid-19 restriction for Cheadle Hulme, and a notice/events board with the current and soon to come events. Also on the Notice section is a link to the google calendar which shows all the forthcoming events currently on Zoom for each of the groups. There is also a link to our Facebook page to check out the current activities. So something to keep you occupied for a little while. Any comments on the web site please email me at [chair@chu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@chu3a.org.uk).

Also on the web site are the winners of December's Photographic Club competition. Check it out and see the results of our labours.

As we are drawing to the end of a very different year I would like to remind those members who may have forgotten to pay the yearly fee, that the committee has reduced the existing single member payment to £10 for this year only and we would like to finalise the payments by the end of 2020.

Another reminder for all paid up members is that your nomination forms are required to be returned to Bernadette by the end of 2020, as the majority of the committee are due for election or re-election. You can email your choices to [secretary@chu3a.org.uk](mailto:secretary@chu3a.org.uk)

Lastly have a happy, safe and great New Year.

Neil Rackham

## **Groups.**

### **Group Calendars**

We have been operating a group calendar for all groups on Google calendars with all the events and dates incorporated. You never have to miss a group again.

If you would like a further copy of the calendar, copy this link to the Cheadle Hulme U3A events calendar:- <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?>

[cid=bHQwNGhtZDVpN2U5MnVnMHJvOTcxZmZuMzBAZ3JvdXAuY2FsZW5kYXIuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbQ](https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?cid=bHQwNGhtZDVpN2U5MnVnMHJvOTcxZmZuMzBAZ3JvdXAuY2FsZW5kYXIuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbQ)

## Photographic Group

We are currently meeting online monthly a Monday afternoon at 2.00pm, please see group calendar for dates. Apart from trying to resolve members photographic problems we also spend an amount of time on photo editing and its techniques, with on screen demonstrations

The means of communication is using Zoom via the internet. If you wish to join or need help in setting up Zoom, please contact Neil Rackham by email on [neil.rackham@me.com](mailto:neil.rackham@me.com).

## Computer Group

We are currently meeting online every other Monday afternoon at 2:00pm please see group calendar for dates.

We try to resolve members computer problems both hardware and software between us at the meeting and also have a presentation on a particular topic each meeting.

The means of communication is using Google Meet via the internet.

If you wish to join or need help in setting up Google Meet, please contact Neil Rackham by email on [neil.rackham@me.com](mailto:neil.rackham@me.com).

## Technology for Everyone

There is no meeting in January, so the next meeting is on **Tuesday, 2nd February 2021**.

Not one but two professors: **Professor Pamela Vallely** from the Virology Dept of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, and **Paul Klapper** who is the Professor of Clinical Virology at the University of Manchester. They will talk about the research and progress made in their battle to protect us from Covid-19.

Please don't think this will be old hat by February. It will be a much more positive, factual, informed and constructive report than we get from the popular media, and it's by people who are actually involved. You will not be disappointed.

The **March** meeting will be announced in due course.

If you know of someone in CHU3A who might be interested in joining the group and attending future meetings, please ask them to contact Roger Law on 07870 497 930 or via email [roger@lawfamily.com](mailto:roger@lawfamily.com)

## Practical Art

There is going to be a virtual Practical Art Group set up jointly between Cheadle Hulme and Bramhall U3As running fortnightly. If you would like to join please contact Sue Cuffe: [sue.cuffe@ntlworld.com](mailto:sue.cuffe@ntlworld.com)

## **Art Appreciation**

**January 21st**

**An Art Chat on Edward Hopper**

**Sue Dawson**

Sue Dawson (Chair of The Arts Society – North East Cheshire) will give a talk on the American artist Edward Hopper, whose most famous painting is “Nighthawks”. During the talk there will be a chance for informal discussion of some of the works presented. The talk will start at 2pm on Zoom. A link will be sent out to those on the group’s circulation list nearer the time. If you would like to join this session and are not currently on our list, please contact John Broadbent on [john.broadbent@stcatz.oxon.org](mailto:john.broadbent@stcatz.oxon.org)

**February 18th**

**The Grandeur of Tuscany and the Art of Florence**

**Chris LeGrand**

**March 18th**

**The History of Cartoons. From William Hogarth to Private Eye**

**Ian Keable**

Our meetings will remain on Zoom for the foreseeable future and as usual will be on the third Thursday of the month at 2pm.

The Art Appreciation Group is an Open Group, so if you know of anyone in the North East Cheshire Network of U3As (Bramhall, Cheadle and Gatley, Macclesfield Rural, Poynton, Wilmslow and CHU3A) who might be interested in these talks, please ask them to contact Bernadette [bernadetterobb@btinternet.com](mailto:bernadetterobb@btinternet.com) and John Broadbent [john.broadbent@stcatz.oxon.org](mailto:john.broadbent@stcatz.oxon.org) so that we know that they are expected and they will be admitted to the Zoom meeting.

## **Quiz Group**

We meet online once a week on Tuesday mornings at 11:00am.

The subjects covered are varied from General Knowledge to Food & Drink and many others. If you join, you also get a ‘table round’ the day before the quiz to ponder over and complete whilst having a cup of tea or coffee, in the comfort of your armchair.

The group are very welcoming, if not a little mad, and we would welcome new participants.

The means of communication is using Zoom via the internet.

If you would like to join but do not have any equipment suitable for viewing the internet we also provide a facility for carrying out the quiz by email, and some of our number use this on a regular basis.

If you wish to join or need help in setting up Zoom please contact Neil Rackham by email on [neil.rackham@me.com](mailto:neil.rackham@me.com).

**THE DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MARCH NEWS SHEET IS SUNDAY 28th FEBRUARY.**

## Looking back

### Technology for Everyone

#### **Lies, Damned Lies and Statistics 1st December 2020**

About 20 members attended (via zoom) this mathematics lecture on statistics by Neil Sheldon, ex-vice-president of the Royal Statistical Society. The real purpose of statistics is to convey information, understand that information and what it means (insight). He gave various illustrations to prove that they can be misleading, misunderstood and even misused. Understanding statistics helps us make better decisions. Averages can be useful, but statistics is mostly about variation. What is true of the totals is not necessarily true for the parts as other variables need to be considered. He said we must be aware of spurious correlations. Medians frequently do not describe the true picture. If a fact looks wrong then it probably is. People use statistics usually to prove their own ends. He concluded by mentioning various types of statistics for Covid-19 infections (age relation, ethnicity etc) to encourage people to believe that progress is being made to combat this dreadful virus.

Report by Roger Perry

#### **Desert Island Discs 18th December 2020**



**Neil Rackham on a desert island being interviewed by Walt Denning from his living room.**



Against a background of a tropical island paradise Neil described how he was born in Saltash, moved to Manchester, met Maureen and how his family and business life developed.

To illustrate his journey he chose the following 8 records which were played in by John Broadbent: Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No 1; The Beatles "Norwegian Wood"; The Archies "Sugar Sugar"; Jeff Wayne's War of the Worlds; The Bee Gees "Staying Alive"; Neil Diamond "Hello Again"; The Beach Boys "California Dreaming" and Queen "Its a Kind of Magic".

For his book he chose 'Red Storm Rising' by Tom Clancy and his luxury would be a crate of Talisker 25 year old single malt whisky!