

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.

6th May: James Ellson A former police officer, starting in London and finally a Detective Inspector in Moss Side, Manchester. Now an Author and running a small holding in the Peak District.

3rd June: Dr James Taylor - Understanding Nelson from his art and artifacts. Dr Taylor gave us an amusing and informative talk in December on The Forgotten Art of the Picture Postcard.

Future Monthly Meetings

1st July: Stephen Powles – “The Countryside Detective”

Country walks can be greatly enhanced if one has a knowledge of the signs left by animals and where to look for them. This talk will illustrate numerous examples, some common and some more unusual and some that you are likely to pass by without ever having given them much thought. The use of field craft, camera traps and CCTV monitoring will also be explored.

5th August: Tim Barney – “Mad, Bad & Dangerous” - Military Ideas & Inventions That Didn't Make the Grade

This entertaining talk is about military ideas, inventions and operations that in one way or another, failed to make the grade. Incompetence, haste and wishful thinking have all played their part, in some of the most scandalous failures in military history.

Meetings in September and onwards - we are hoping that we will be able to meet in person again but this will depend on Government guidance.

Chairman's Statement

Good Day to you all. I hope you are enjoying our collective partial release from captivity, and as spring is now well and truly here I hope you are now starting to get out and about.

Your u3a is starting to make plans for the reopening of our activities and to meet face to face later in the year. All our activities will be carried out in accordance with the u3a Trust and Government guidelines and, therefore, an amount of preplanning is required before we can reopen fully. However it is our intention, so far, to recommence the general meeting early in the autumn together with a number of suitable groups. We are also going to have the excursion to Shibden Hall in Yorkshire that was cancelled last year during the autumn period.

During the reopening period, and probably thereafter, a number of our Zoom meetings will continue, but some will inevitably swap back to face to face meetings.

All in all, things are starting to look brighter and more activities will become available during the rest of this year. For those of our members who have so far forgotten to pay this year's subscription, now is the time to remedy that situation by contacting the Membership Secretary. This will enable you to take part in our activities.

We look forward to the remainder of the year with some hope of improvement.

Neil Rackham

Notice for Group Leaders

Could all group leaders whose groups are not currently active please contact Sue Cuffe by email at sue.cuffe@ntlworld.com with their requirements for restarting their group during this year.

Joining our u3a meetings on Zoom

Many members of Cheadle Hulme u3a have joined one or more of our on-line activities, whether a group meeting, a general meeting or a quiz . 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.

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 neil.rackham@me.com
or John Broadbent john.broadbent@stcatz.oxon.org
or Roger Law roger@lawfamily.com

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.

Events

Way back last year, before the first lockdown, we were planning a visit to Shibden Hall and the Piece Hall, near Halifax. Shibden Hall dates back to 1420 and has a mixture of architectural styles reflecting its interesting and varied history. Recently, it was the focus of the television programme Gentleman Jack, which explored the life of Anne Lister (1791-1840).

The Piece Hall, a Grade 1 listed building, is the sole survivor of the great 18th century northern cloth halls.

It is hoped that we will be able to meet again – face to face – in September. Working on that assumption, I am therefore hoping to go ahead with this visit at some future date. In the meantime, if you are interested, please let me know, by email or phone call.

Very best wishes to you all,

Pat Vermes



Shibden Hall

Groups.

Group Calendars

We have operating a group calendar, for all groups, with all the events and dates incorporated. This can automatically write the events onto the calendar on your computer. You never have to miss as group again.

You can view the calendar by going to our web site click on the Notice and Events page, and at the bottom of the page is a click on link to the calendar.

Photographic Group

I hope that some of you have managed to spare time to have a look at the Group's monthly efforts on our Facebook page (u3ach photo group), or the monthly winner of our completion on the website. April's competition was about abstract photos and May's will be on groups of three photos per participant.

New members are always welcome and taking part is not dependent on a level of knowledge. We also try at each meeting to learn something new about photo editing as well as composition and, hopefully, sorting out members' photographic problems.

The next two meetings are to be held on Zoom on May17th and June 14th.

Book Group 2

During the meeting on April 7th, 2021, the following three books were all given 10/10 by members for their entertainment value:

I-Spy: My Life in MI5

by Tom Marcus

Recommended by Roger Law

The explosive book from ex-MI5 surveillance officer, Tom Marcus takes the reader on a non-stop, adrenalin-fuelled ride as he hunts down those who would do our country harm.

Portrait of an Unknown Woman

by Vanora Bennett

Recommended by Pat Taylor

A remarkable love story with a background of religious and political turmoil in Tudor England. The year is 1527. Hans Holbein makes his first visit to England, sent by the great Erasmus to paint Thomas More, courtier, scholar, patron, and his family. More's splendid house on the river in Chelsea is at the centre of Tudor society.

Warlock

by Wilbur Smith

Recommended by Roger Law

In his long life, Taita has gone from slave to warlock, and now his wisdom and abilities are known throughout the kingdom. But even his immense skills cannot protect those close to him from the evil that lurks at the heart of Egypt. As enemy forces join together to bring destruction to the whole land, it is no longer a matter of simple magic. To defeat the false Pharaohs, the gods and armies must share their powers with a mortal warlock ...

We plan to award ratings to all our books in future, and, perhaps, offer just those that attracted 10/10.

Contact: Barry Richards: barryrichards@mac.com

Art Appreciation

Our next meeting will remain on Zoom and will be at **2pm on 20th May 2021** when **Dr James Taylor will give a talk on – Highlights of the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum**

2022 marks the 100th anniversary of the public opening of one of the South coast's finest cultural attractions. This lively presentation explores the enchanting Victorian seaside home and eclectic art collection of Sir Merton and Lady Annie Russell-Cotes in Bournemouth.

Zoom joining information will be sent out to those on the Group's email list a couple of days before the meeting.

This meeting will probably be the last in our 2020/21 season.

Meetings will resume in the Autumn, hopefully in person at Heald Green Village Hall on the third Thursday of the month at 2pm.

Practical Art

If you would like to join please contact Sue Cuffe: sue.cuffe@ntlworld.com

Technology for Everyone

Our next meeting on **Tuesday 4th May at 2pm** will feature a **TED talk on Prosthetics**.

Our normal Visit meeting in May is not going to be possible again this year, but we are looking at a different style of Zoom meeting. We are extending the season into June, and details of that meeting will be available shortly. A visit to America could be involved.....

Tina is currently arranging the 2021/22 season of talks when we are hoping we will be able to meet face to face again. In October our first meeting of the new season will be a return visit from Pete Webb (who recently gave us a talk on "Earthquakes: Why they happen and how we measure them"). Continuing the geology theme, he will be talking on "The Torrs of New Mills: a geological and archaeological journey". This may lead to an outdoor tour of the area led by Pete when circumstances permit.

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

Music Quiz

The music quiz is currently a small group of members with aspiration of increasing in size over the coming months.

The quiz is held monthly over three rounds and covers popular music from the 50's to the 80's and classical together with opera and show tunes. So you see it covers a fairly wide spectrum.

Any new member is always made welcome we hope to see some new members over the coming weeks. If you wish to join in please contact Neil Rackham for joining instructions

At Home Quiz Group

A number of us are still battling away on a weekly basis trying to obtain a full score. The quiz is held every Tuesday morning at 11:00am on Zoom in an atmosphere of semi hilarity, mainly at the quiz master, and the topics range over a wide spectrum of categories.

Any new member is always made welcome we hope to see some new members over the coming weeks. If you wish to join in please contact Neil Rackham for joining instructions.

Computer Group

The group currently meets on Zoom fortnightly to help members sort out any problems with computing. We try to cover in general terms all aspects of hardware, software, networking and other related matters. Any members are always welcome as all our existing member contribute to each of the meetings.

Shakespeare on Toast

It seems that William Shakespeare is alive and well, and living in Cheadle Hulme. A Shakespeare group was launched in the middle of the lockdown, so was forced to operate online only. Contrary to the Group Leader's expectations, it now has 21 registered members, with a majority of them joining the monthly meetings. To date, they have been discussing individual plays, looking at the plot, the characters and the background to the plays. Members have enjoyed an illustrated talk on each play, with images from various past productions, many from the Royal Shakespeare Company. The play last month was Twelfth Night, and the talks have often included short videos, usually not more than two or three minutes.

The next meeting on May 19th will offer a departure from the usual format in that they will be discussing Shakespeare's predecessors and contemporaries, hopefully offering an insight into why he was so successful a playwright (and poet) in his lifetime and why he continues to be so now.

Looking back

Technology for Everyone; 2nd March 2021.

About 28 members attended via zoom this meeting of the Cheadle Hulme U3A Technology group to listen to Dr Peter Webb of Walk Mill Consultancy Ltd in Hayfield talk on "Earthquakes: Why they happen and how we measure them".

Peter started off by explaining how moving plate tectonics over the convection cells in the earth's mantle generate various weaknesses in the crust. Usually this results in earthquakes by either subduction of one plate sliding under another or lateral movement of one plate brushing alongside another, or both. Frequently this also manifests itself in increased volcanic activity especially along the plate boundaries (so called ring of fire). Peter gave recent examples of the different types of earthquake (Rift valley, subduction) and (San Andreas, lateral).

Earthquakes generate 3 types of wave, (p, s and surface). In p & s waves the earth moves up and down, or side to side from the epicentre whereas surface waves spread from the centre above the epicentre. The latter tend to be the most destructive.

All these waves are usually recorded on an instrument called a seismograph which basically is a heavy weighted pointer drawing on a rotating drum of paper. The different waves travel at different speeds (p>s>surface) and can easily be seen on the paper scan. The amplitudes of the different oscillations can be used to determine the magnitude of the quake which is reported on the logarithmic Richter scale. The depth of a quake can simply be calculated from a series of seismometers in different locations on the surface as the s, p waves take different times to travel through the intervening rocks.

We are not immune from quakes in the UK even though we are far from a tectonic plate edge (Eurasian) but we often do get small scale earth tremors (<3Richter) because tectonic plates are generally littered with smaller cracks. The latest serious earthquake near to us occurred near Market Rasen in 2008 and measured 5.8 on the Richter scale. It caused minor damage to buildings nearby. Peter concluded by saying not to worry as there are far more dangerous events happening to us than the possibility of a large earthquake.

Report by Roger Perry

Technology for Everyone; 6th April 2021.

Dr Diana Leitch MBE gave a detailed talk entitled "The Story of Pyrex", 100 Years of a Borosilicate Glass that revolutionised both domestic life and scientific work.

Pyrex is a low-thermal expansion borosilicate glass which is familiar to many for its use in clear glass kitchen ware. Pyrex is a very common piece of kitchenware found in most kitchens where it is a piece of the scenery that usually is not given a second thought. It was first used in 1915 as a pie plate. It was robust and shock resistant. In the 1960s coffee jugs were a popular use of the glass.

Borosilicate glass is a type of glass with silica and boron trioxide as the main glass-forming constituents. Borosilicate glasses are known for having very low coefficients of thermal expansion making them more resistant to thermal shock than any other common glass. Such glass is subjected to less thermal stress and can withstand temperature differentials without fracturing of about 165 °C (297 °F). It is commonly used for the construction of reagent bottles and flasks as well as lighting, electronics and cookware. It was first marketed by Corning Inc. in the USA and has had a complicated ownership since then; the business now operates as International Cookware.

There was a good question and answer section with several members showing some Pyrex from their kitchens, some of which is rare, which delighted them! Diana scours charity shops looking for rarities!

I asked about military uses in World War 2, such as bullet proof glass and submarine periscopes, but she had just studied civilian uses. She said it had been used for scientific glass, plus windows for the Mercury spacecraft, and you cannot get more extreme temperatures than that!

Report by Mike Thompson

Diana Leitch was awarded an MBE for services to chemistry in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2014. She is currently the Chair of Trustees of the Catalyst Science Discovery Centre in Widnes. She gave us a talk on "The History and Science of Prosthetic Limbs" in our 2018-19 season. She is obviously a very able lady with several interests.

A Schoolgirl's War

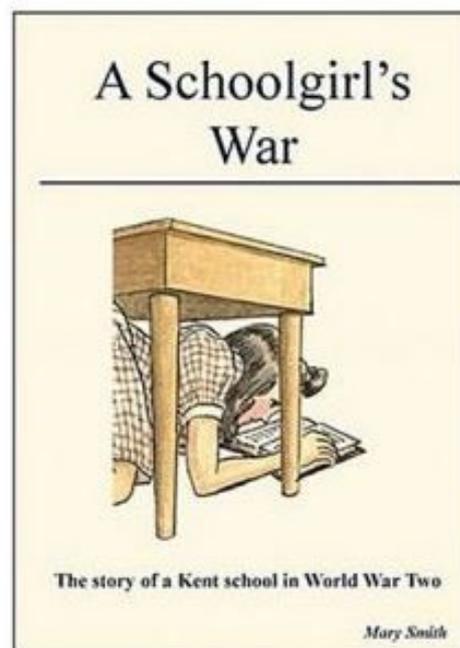
For anyone wishing to purchase the book with illustrations by art teacher Helen Keen which accompanies Mary Smith's talk about life at Maidstone Girls Grammar School given at our April general meeting, here are the details:

Copies of "A Schoolgirl's War" (£12 per copy including p&p) may be purchased in these ways:

By cheque: made payable to Mary Smith, and sent to 6 The Landway, Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 4BD.

By bank transfer: contact Mary directly at marysmithjones@hotmail.com

By bank card at www.mggs.org/war



THE DEADLINE FOR THE JULY NEWSHEET IS SUNDAY JUNE 27TH.

This month, for a change, the quiz is about anagrams instead of pictures.

Good Luck!

MIXED-UP STARS

The following are all anagrams of famous stars of the silver screen, can you unravel them?

1. MICRO SUET
2. FIND LIFE RACE LAD
3. DISLOCATE TOWN
4. RAJAH NOT VOLT
5. CHEETAHS PROWL RINK
6. CHINCHILLA REAP
7. A HERALD LAUNDRY
8. NO BARMAN LORD
9. REALLY HERB
10. OCEANIC GALS
11. DO ON BALLROOM
12. NIL NACHOS JOCK
13. HOT HAMBURG PREY
14. RENOWN DAIRY
15. RENAME MAN FROG
16. GRINDING AMBER
17. NYLON DAHLIAS
18. MASTER WAS JET
19. THY LEAKIER KING
20. SYPHON INTO KHAN
21. CLEARLY KEG
22. WILL USE CRIB
23. WANTS A MEMO
24. MERRY WARDROBE
25. FINDS A HORROR

TOTAL

Answers are on the website. Look for the May newssheet.