

Cheadle and Gatley u3a

Learn, laugh, live, and enjoy life to the full

January 2025 Newsletter

No longer working full time? We have many varied activity and interest groups including Painting, Gardening, Walking, History, Craft, Bridge and Spanish.



Painting and Drawing group



Short Walks group at Lewis Carroll's Well

Enjoy activities, talks, outings, social events, fun and friendship,
all for a membership of £12 per year



Gardening Member Growing Grapes



Long Walks group on Alderley Edge with view to the Pennines

Cheadle and Gatley u3a is a Registered Charity, Number 1172853

Message from the Chair

Margaret Seaby

I hope that you all enjoyed your Christmas and New Year celebrations.

Thank you to all the members who made our Christmas event on 11th December so enjoyable. We were joined by Gatley Primary School Choir who entertained us with their choice of Christmas songs. They also sang jointly with our 'Singing for Pleasure' group who then sang their choice of Christmas music.

Our Ukulele group gave us their lively renditions with a spirited encore of John Denver's 'Take Me Home, Country Roads'. We then enjoyed a lovely buffet followed by a raffle with prizes generously donated by you, the members.



Pam selling cards

As you already know, we waived the usual entrance charge of £2 to the monthly Wednesday meetings from September to December 2024. Instead, we invited members to donate to the St Ann's Hospice Building Fund.

This raised the impressive sum of £706.23.

Congratulations to Pam Allen who raised £184.90 through her card sales with the money also going to the St Ann's Fund.

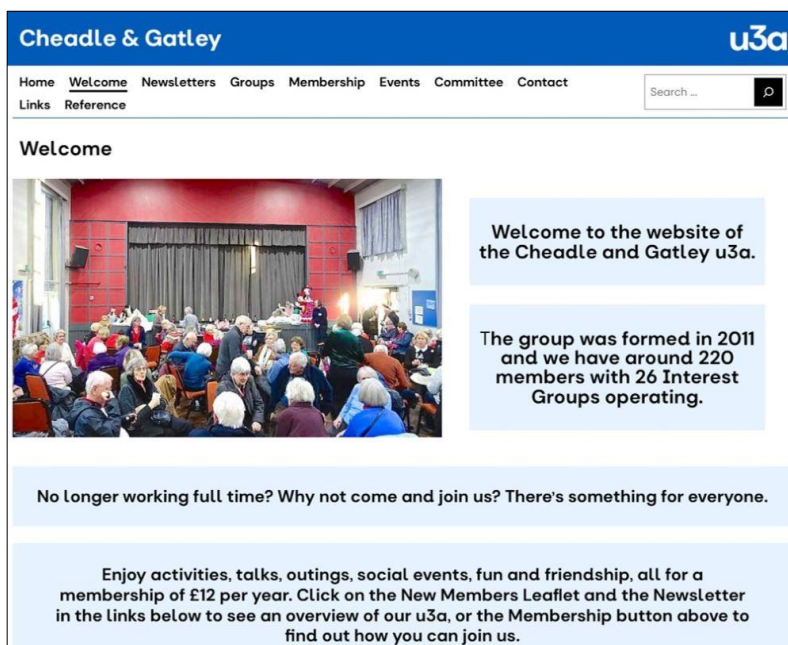
Along with the donations made last Christmas, we have now raised over £1000 towards the Building Fund and this means that the Cheadle and Gatley u3a name will appear on the donor wall of the new hospice.

Thank you to all of you who donated to this very important cause.

I would also like to thank all those who have given their time to the u3a this year: this includes all the helpers who serve refreshments and clear up at the Wednesday meetings; all the Convenors and their helpers who keep the groups running; Heather Wilkinson who organises our Wednesday meeting speakers and the Committee which works behind the scenes to keep this u3a going.

A special thank you goes to Allan Witton for all his hard work in producing the new website for us. It now looks much smarter, up to date and with attractive moving graphics. Thank you also to Tina and Hilary for editing and collating this newsletter. I am sure you will enjoy reading both.

Margaret



A page from our new look website



Thank you Allan

Monthly Meetings

Heather Wilkinson

Meetings are on the **Second Wednesday: 1:15 for a prompt 1.30 start** (every month except August) at the United Reformed Church Hall, Elm Road, Gatley SK8 4LY.

The monthly open meeting is where to find out about all our activities and visits, to hear speakers talk on a wide range of subjects, as well as a good opportunity to socialise with friends over refreshments.

In the last six months we have had a husband and wife double act talking about the history of Manchester theatres, and personal recollections of life in radio & film, a fraud awareness talk about the latest scams and how to protect ourselves and others (there was a free booklet too!) and finally in November, a talk about the experiences of volunteering to work with orang-utans in Borneo.



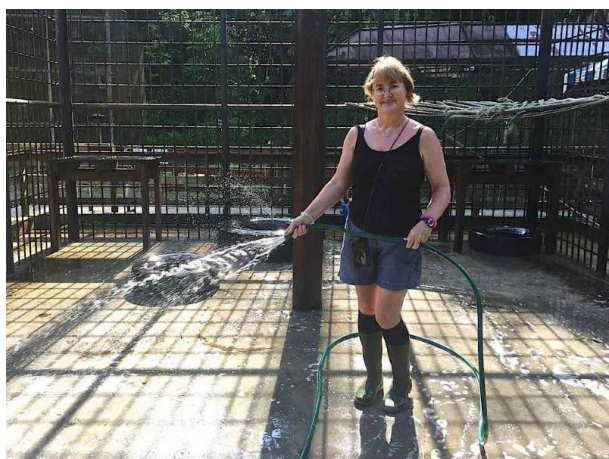
History of Manchester Theatres
Marilyn Shalks



Fraud Awareness/Prevention
Peter McEvoy



A life in Radio and Film
Allan Shalks



My Work with Orang-utans - Sarah Lionheart

I hope you will find the speakers at our Monthly Meetings for the next 6 months just as interesting! They are:

January 8 th 2025	Restoring our Peatlands	Izabella Donahue
February 12 th	My Life in Crime (Part 2)	Simon Michael
March 12 th	Assassination of President Kennedy	Pete Mellor
April 9 th	Tales of a Customs Officer	Brian Topping
May 14 th	Becoming Mastermind Champion 2022	Alice Walker
June 11 th	AGM	
July 9 th	The History of Manchester Theatre (Part 2)	Marilyn Shalks

GROUP NEWS

All our groups are sociable and friendly, and most would welcome new members.

Book Group 1

Lesley Witton 428 1522

For August we decided on novels set in the Mid-West of the USA. These are all powerful stories which were very much enjoyed. The books read were:

<i>A Thousand Acres</i>	Jane Smylie	a sort of re-telling of King Lear
<i>Crossroads</i>	Jonathan Franzen	a Protestant pastor and his family
<i>My Antonia</i>	Willa Cather	set in Nebraska
<i>Lila</i>	Marilynne Robinson	the third instalment of the Gilead series set in Iowa
<i>The Bridges of Madison County</i>	Robert James Waller	also set in Iowa
<i>The Jungle</i>	Upton Sinclair	Lithuanian immigrants in Chicago
<i>A Cloud in the Shape of a Girl</i>	Jean Thompson	three generations of women in a small Midwestern university town.

Our September meeting had to be cancelled, but in October we read books by Edna O' Brien, the Irish writer who died in July. There were mixed reactions to her writing – but most of us felt that it reflected characters and their emotions very accurately and had passages of lyrical description.

Unfortunately, our November meeting was also cancelled, but in December, we turned our attention to the Middle East. Two of the group read books by Elif Shafak, a British/Turkish writer who has written a wide range of novels and is highly recommended. Other books read were:

<i>The Kite Runner</i>	Khaled Hosseini,	set in Afghanistan;
<i>The Best Place on Earth</i>	Ayelet Tsabari,	set in Israel;
<i>Before the Queen Falls Asleep</i>	Huzama Habayeb,	tells the story of a woman's experiences in Kuwait and Jordan as part of the Palestinian diaspora.

We all felt that reading these novels gave us a better insight into the lives of people in these troubled lands. Our choice for the new year is *Howard's End* by E M Forster. Anyone interested in giving our group a try would be most welcome.

Book Group 2

Jean Lawrowitsch 428 9678

We meet on the first Tuesday afternoon of the month at Cheadle library, where we read a selection of books chosen for us by the library service. Over the year there is usually something to suit everyone. We enjoy lively discussions about the book and also talk about other books we have read. We do have one space available in the group, if anyone would like to join us, so please get in touch. Since July we have read the following books and scored them out of 5:

July	<i>The Boy</i>	Tami Hoag	(3.0*)
Aug	<i>Snow Country</i>	Sebastian Faulks	(3.5*)
Sept	<i>Lily</i>	Rose Tremain	(3.5*)
Oct	<i>Stoner</i>	John Williams	(4.0*)

Book Group 3

Margaret Seaby 221 0944

Our group continues to enjoy lively discussions about the books we choose from Stockport Library Service Collections for Groups. Over the past months we have read:

<i>Rosie</i>	Rose Tremain (autobiography)
<i>Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde</i>	R L Stevenson
<i>Of Mice and Men</i>	John Steinbeck
<i>Redhead by the Side of the Road</i>	Ann Tyler
<i>The Cut Out Girl</i>	Bart Van Es

We welcome new members to join us on the first Monday morning of the month at Cheadle Library Community Room.



Not Just any mince pie... but a u3a whopper!

Bridge**Linda Ewing 312 5072**

The Bridge group has been running very well. Membership has increased lately and we regularly have four tables. We have all enjoyed the social contact as well as the Bridge. We are a very friendly group and would welcome any new members. If there were enough beginners wanting to come along, I am sure we could arrange some tuition.

We meet at St James Church Hall on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 1-30. If you would like to join us, please give me a ring on the number above. Anyone who would like to come along for a visit to see what it is like, then just turn up on the day.

**Card Games Group****Michelle Slater 07710 883579**

We have now had four meetings of the new card playing group and have learnt / revised how to play Cribbage and Canasta. New members are very welcome even if you haven't played these games before. We meet at 1:30 at St James' Church Hall on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

**Computing****Peter Bayley 282 3468**

This group has continued to operate in the same low key manner and I have been able to offer advice and assistance to help try and solve those niggly little issues which seem to crop up from time to time, especially with the technology we seem to need to interact with on an almost daily basis. Some problems are definitely beyond my capabilities but it has been possible to help quite a number of members of the wider Cheadle and Gatley u3a. If you need assistance, please call me.

Craft**Pam Allen 971 1880**

We meet monthly on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:30am in a member's home. We work on our own crafts - currently knitting and cross stitch but we have also done crochet, card making and embroidery. Members will help you with your crafts offering advice on your projects. We stop for tea/coffee and biscuits and there's always plenty of chatting! Please come and join us.

Creative Writing**Nigel Bann 491 6835**

Is there a novel in you? We write stories, poems, reports, anything goes, with 500 to 1,000 words suggested. Each person reads their work out to the group, and the members offer constructive advice and encouragement. We meet at a member's house on each second Tuesday of the month from 2 to 4 pm. For further information please contact me.

Cryptic Crosswords**Jane Lloyd 0771 384 8734**

The group meets at 10.30 a.m. on the second Friday of each month at Zalo's Café, in Gatley. There are currently eight members and we solve about three cryptic crosswords (provided by the convenor) per session. It is a relaxed, friendly atmosphere in which we help one another to solve the crosswords.

Whether an expert or a beginner, if you'd like to hone your skills as a cruciverbalist, then please join us. For further details, please contact me.

The Explorers group is flourishing but you do have to keep coming to our group meetings in Bethany church hall to find out what's going on.

For fairness, the Outing and Holiday lists are only available at these meetings.

Deposits and balances for the ever popular day trips and holidays need to be paid in person.

For information, our Holiday Planner is Joyce Bradbury (264 3312).



Janet at 'Downton Abbey'

The Explorers group has had a busy few months:

July - North Wales Scenic Tour

Our first brief stop for sightseeing/morning coffee was Llangollen, with Castell Dinas Brân ('Castle of the Crows') standing sentinel on the high ground to the north and Pontcysyllte Aqueduct seen through the trees.

Then, typical for this year's summer, the group donned waterproofs for the short stop by the side of Bala Lake, a protected wildlife site. It is home to many species of fish including pike, perch, trout and eels, as well as a species not found anywhere else in Britain, a whitefish called Gwynedd. Local legend says the lake is inhabited by a monster known as Teggie and that on moonlit nights, the palace of King Tegid can be seen under the water. Needless to say, we had no volunteers to dive into the lake to investigate these claims.

The final stop was the popular tourist spot of Betws y Coed or 'Prayer house in the Woods'. Thankfully, the sun was shining giving time for exploring the town, including St Michael's Church with its five century old yew trees, before returning back home along the coastal road.

July - 'Downton Abbey' Holiday

We travelled to Cogges Hall farm where several of its locations were featured in the popular tv series, including the 'downstairs' kitchen. The farmyard was also used, with modern day fixtures and fittings being covered over or disguised. Next, we travelled on to Brampton village which provided locations for the church and the hospital (which is in fact the village library).

Our overnight stay and a pleasant evening meal was at Blunsdon House Hotel. Suitably refreshed, the next morning after breakfast, we went to Highclere Castle which was the main location used in Downton Abbey. Our driver played the theme music to the series on our approach! The house is actually the home of Lord and Lady Carnarvon, and is also home to an Egyptian Exhibition. In 1922, the then Lord Carnarvon and Howard Carter discovered the tomb of Tutankhamen.



Meeting Lord Grantham



Downton Abbey

The group did a tour of the house, which was a mix of information about locations used in 'Downton' and about the Carnarvon family, including photos taken of the late queen on her visits to the house. There was also enough time to do a short tour of the grounds, giving opportunity for photos of the magnificent house.

August – Yorkshire Day Trip

On one of the hottest days of the summer, this trip took us to the Howardian hills to visit the Yorkshire lavender farm with its spectacular views overlooking the Vale of York.

The different varieties of lavender made for a pleasant couple of hours walking round the gardens and gift shop, plus enjoying the fine food on offer.

We moved on to York with its old walls, Minster and Clifford Tower; enough time for a short stroll along the riverbanks, with a few venturing as far as the Minster.



Lavender ladies!

September – Day Out in Skipton, Ribblesdale and Kirby Lonsdale

Starting in Skipton, the town was very busy with a motor scooter rally involving hundreds of Lambretta and Vespa scooters and their Mod owners. We then travelled to Ribblesdale, where on a clear day it's possible to see Great Whernside, Ingleborough and Pen-y-ghent, but sadly with the cloud base so low, we just about made out the Ribblesdale viaduct through the mist!

Finally, we reached Kirby Lonsdale, where the weather had relented for us to take a brief stroll around the Cumbrian town, formerly in the county of Westmorland.

October – Shropshire and Tenbury's Applefest Holiday

Our first day was on the Severn Valley Railway where the weekend's main attraction was the array of preserved diesel locomotives in service and on display, and we took advantage of a day rover ticket on the railway.

Day two took us into Worcestershire to the market town of Tenbury Wells for 'Applefest' - a celebration of all things apple and a successful harvest. There were over 200 varieties of apple and pear on display.

Our final day took us to the Coalport China Museum. Members toured the museum with its exhibits of pottery produced at this site from 1795 until 1926.



Ironbridge



Blists Hill

We continued via Ironbridge to Blists Hill Victorian Village, where we could visit the bank to exchange today's money for the Victorian equivalent.

Visits to the sweetshop, baker's shop, fish and chip shop and the Victorian pub ensured that the pounds, shillings and pence (and halfpennies and farthings) were spent.

Other attractions were a working forge and displays of crafts and trades in various cottages and buildings. Also preserved on site is an example of the type of vessel used to ferry pottery and other goods on the River Severn to Bristol and then on to the world beyond.

October – Knowsley Safari Park

We went on safari with a trip to Knowsley Safari Park spending the morning walking accessible areas of the park seeing giraffes, meerkats and a few lucky explorers even spotted a tiger!

After lunch, we had a guided coach tour of the park seeing deer, camels, rhinoceros and other animals that roam freely. Unfortunately, our coach was unable to drive through the gibbon enclosure due to their learnt behaviour of taking any parts of vehicles that they can remove, but this was more than made up for by a close view of the park's lions.



Lions at Knowsley

November – Loch Lomond ‘Turkey and Tinsel’ holiday

We stayed in a wonderful old Coaching Inn where we celebrated Christmas with a turkey dinner and a visit from Santa on one evening, and Hogmanay complete with haggis, a piper and Scottish dancing on another.

Trips during the day included visits to Callendar, Loch Lomond, Balloch, Truss and Inveraray. Some of us visited the jail at Inveraray, one of the best preserved jail and courtroom complexes in the world. We even managed to meet and feed some Highland cows!

On our departure we were treated to a hot toddy and a snow machine. We all agreed it had been a fabulous few days away and left feeling very Christmassy.



Explorers group at Loch Lomond



Staying at a Coaching Inn at Drymen

We look forward to new and varied places to visit and holidays for 2025, with plans already in place for a holiday to Eastbourne and an outing to see ‘Evita’ at the Plaza theatre in Stockport.

Family History

Linda Corry 428 4094

The Family History Group is a small group which meets in my house off Styal Road. We usually discuss where we have got to in our own research and try to help each other by giving advice. Recently some group members have been giving short presentations to the group about some aspect of family history research.

Currently, as most of us have had our DNA tested, we have been considering DNA matching as a tool for research - and some of us have had success in breaking down 'brick walls', or in confirming that previous research is correct. If anyone is thinking of taking up family history as a hobby but doesn't know where to start, I can help.

Gardening

Deborah Connell 0797 010 3503

The Gardening group meet on the 4th Thursday of the month. This year our numbers have swelled from 18 to 24. We don't have an allotment or do communal gardening but instead, we car share from Elm Rd URC or occasionally hire a minibus to go on visits to unusual and beautiful gardens and garden centres where we wander round gathering inspiration. Then we head to their café for drinks and cake. It's always a grand trip out!

On a glorious sunny day in August, we went to Bollin House garden in Wilmslow, part of the National Garden Scheme. Not an easy place to find, but well worth the effort as we were rewarded with a good view of the Bollin valley.

The garden has beautiful borders of perennials, a wildflower meadow and a formal area with a central water feature. We were then treated to hot drinks and delicious homemade cakes on the terrace.



Bollin House Garden

Also in August, we enjoyed a visit to Sue Cook's garden in Gatley which has a lovely lawned area with flowering borders, an impressive vegetable plot and a massive greenhouse housing grape vines (see front page picture) that easily sheltered all of us during a sudden shower.

It was lovely to meet members of her family who helped serve refreshments.

We all went home with bunches of grapes picked straight off the vines. Thank you Sue!



Enjoying Sue's garden

Arley Hall near Northwich was our venue in September when it absolutely poured down with rain. However, despite the weather, our small band of intrepid garden lovers still enjoyed walking around some of the 8 acre formal gardens including the colourful double herbaceous borders, the furlong walk and the walled gardens.

The Hall was the setting for the Peaky Blinders tv series and has featured on Hollyoaks, Coronation Street and Gardener's World. Needless to say, we finished up in the aptly named 'The Gardener's Kitchen Café'.



Arley Hall Gardens

Our next meeting was at Elm Road when once again, Liz demonstrated her talent for Xmas crafting.

I think we all surprised ourselves making a little macramé Santa to go into a hessian covered pot containing three Spring bulbs.

We also had chocolate biscuits and mince pies to assist our creativity.

Hope everyone's bulbs are growing well! Many thanks Liz!



Xmas crafting

Finally, we rounded off the year with our Christmas meal at the Vinery in Bruntwood Park. Complete with crackers, we had a two or three course homemade festive meal finished off with mince pies and tea or coffee that was totally delicious.

Anyone interested in gardening is encouraged to come to our next meeting on January 23rd for our annual gardening quiz and to help plan our itinerary for the next year.

German**Marianne Owen 491 3323**

The German class is held every third Tuesday of the month from 10 till 12 at Elm Road. The price is £2 and includes coffee and a biscuit.

We do not have a teacher but take it in turns to prepare and lead a session. The aim is in the first place to improve our spoken German. To achieve this we use games, pictures and role-play. Most lessons also comprise some translation - both ways - and grammar; all in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

History**John Houghton 428 2892**

We are now looking at the Early to Late Antiquity period 4th to 9th centuries. This should keep us busy until after Christmas and into the New Year.

History of Art**Mary Sharples 428 4901**

History of Art Group meet at Elm Road on the last Wednesday of the month at 1:15 ready for a 1:30pm start. New members are always welcome and no previous knowledge is necessary.

Our meetings combine academic study of 'The World's Greatest Paintings' with shared research by our members guided by mutual interest and curiosity. We have enjoyed finding out about many local female British artists.



An enjoyable discussion on our chosen topic

The opportunity has also arisen for cinema visits showcasing National Gallery Exhibitions on Screen. We enjoyed seeing the current exhibition 'Van Gogh: Poets and Lovers'.

In the new year, we look forward to continue our study of animals featured in paintings. We are also planning a trip to Salford Art Gallery to view Harold Reilly's paintings and other works, with the help of an experienced tour guide.

Local History**Lesley Witton 428 1522**

The Local History group has had a varied and interesting autumn term. In September, we had an illustrated virtual tour of Southern Cemetery visiting the graves of some of the eminent people buried there and hearing about their life stories.

Then in October, we welcomed back Gareth Evans from Stockport Heritage Trust to be told about Victorian elections in Stockport, which were just as full of political intrigue as those of today!

Our November meeting was a visit to St Mary's Church in Cheadle as a follow up to Tom Fanning's talk about its history back in November last year. Some of our members had never been inside the church and were fascinated to see some of the architectural features.

In December, we had a festive theme with members sharing memories of Christmases past. Rosemary Round gave a very interesting short talk about the festive season in the Tyrol and Italy, where she once lived, with accounts of their traditions. She showed us her treasured souvenirs: a wreath to place on the table with the advent candle in the centre; a carved wooden angel and a miniature silver crib scene to be carried by an Italian sailor.

This was followed by members recounting tales of their past Christmases and things that wouldn't happen today - like sitting on Santa's knee and floating letters to Father Christmas up the chimney over an open fire! Some of us brought in mementoes like a tiny Christmas card that opened into a paper concertina, the Esso songbook, a letter from Father Christmas and some little Edwardian robins to wire onto the tree.

We rounded off the afternoon with a Christmas quiz devised by Mary Sharples during which we had refreshments, including some suitably historical biscuits – a Victoria chocolate selection and Royal Edinburgh shortbread in heritage shapes made since 1895.

Before the answers to the quiz were given, we were teased by some ‘Cracker’ riddles based on places in Cheadle and Gatley. Can you guess these?

*In this place our hero fought a monster
Where would Santa go if he felt poorly?* (Answers on Page 14)

The Quiz winner was Ginnie Stephenson who won a great money prize of a bag of golden coins! Anyone interested in joining our group would be most welcome.



Painting and Drawing

Pat Marsden 428 7820

We have about ten members who work individually on a variety of subjects using pencil, chalks and paints. There’s an informal and friendly atmosphere but we work with concentration, seeking inspiration and advice from each other, making it an enjoyable and fruitful experience. New members are always welcome.



Artists at work!

Poetry

John Barnard 436 4150

*Another year is over
It’s all been so much fun
Laughed & cried at things we’ve shared
With much more yet to come.*

*So, here’s to next year’s poetry
Lots more poets to explore.
We’re a jolly group, come join us
Can’t wait to discover more!*

POETRY...

“The art of making fewer words say more.”

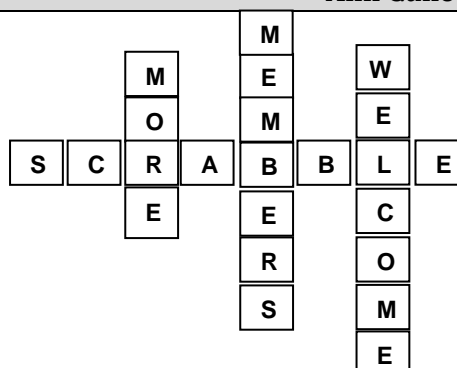
Scrabble

Ann Gane 428 0204

Our Scrabble Group is friendly and non-competitive. We usually get between five and seven at our fortnightly meetings.

We can still accommodate new members and would welcome anyone interested in joining us.

Please give me a ring if you are interested.



Singing for Pleasure**Marjorie Maddison 437 7694**

The Singing for Pleasure group continues under the enthusiastic direction and piano accompaniment of Barbara Clark, singing along to songs from the shows with the occasional forays into harmony as in two of the songs performed at the Christmas meeting.



Well known melodies from Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical 'Carousel' have been proposed to begin in January. New members will be most welcome.

Spanish (Intermediate)**Michelle Slater 0771 088 3579**

The Intermediate Spanish group continues to meet on Zoom most Wednesday mornings despite our diminished numbers. We remain a small but committed and enthusiastic group trying to improve our ability to speak and understand basic Spanish using various techniques. Do get in touch if you are interested in joining us.

Theatre Visits**Chris Bester 376 7909**

Forthcoming amateur productions at our local theatres – 2025.

CHAD's Theatre Cheadle Hulme	<i>The Unexpected Guest</i> <i>Murder, Margaret and Me</i> <i>The Father</i> <i>Sense and Sensibility</i>	Agatha Christie Philip Meeks Florian Zeller Jane Austen	Jan 25 th to Feb 1 st Feb 25 th to Mar 1 st Mar 22 nd to 29 th May 17 th to 24 th
Players Theatre Cheadle Hulme	<i>The Thrill of Love</i> <i>The Ghost Train</i>	Amanda Whittington Arnold Ridley	Mar 10 th May 12 th
Northenden Players	<i>Death Trap</i>	Ira Levin	Feb 2 nd to 8 th
Poynton Players	<i>And Then Come the Nightjars</i> <i>A Bunch of Amateurs</i>	Bea Roberts Ian Hislop and Nick Newman	Mar 3 rd to 8 th June 16 th to 21 st
Garrick Theatre Stockport	<i>Ordinary Days – Musical</i> <i>Dracula</i> <i>King Lear</i> <i>Contractions</i> <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>	Adam Gwon Liz Lochhead William Shakespeare Mike Bartlett Oscar Wilde	Jan 7 th to 11 th Jan 25 th to Feb 1 st Mar 29 th to Apr 5 th Apr 29 th to May 3 rd May 17 th to 24 th
Brookdale Theatre	<i>Wind in the Willows</i> <i>Good Things</i> <i>Sister Act - Musical</i>	Kenneth Grahame Liz Lochhead Alan Menken and Glen Slater	Jan 22 nd to 25 th Mar 5 th to 8 th Apr 28 th to May 3 rd

The Ukulele Group continues to meet at St James' Church Hall on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 2.00pm with 5 or 6 players and after 6 or 7 years we occasionally sound quite musical. Ideally, we could use a couple more players so if anyone is interested in joining (or re-joining) please contact me. No experience necessary; I can usually teach people the basics in 2 or 3 sessions and I have spare ukes to get you started.

Long Walks**Allan Witton 428 1522**

We offer varied walks to suit a range of abilities, mostly between 6 and 8 miles.

Car sharing from Gatley Hill House is the normal arrangement. If you would like to join us for fresh air and exercise in marvellous countryside with convivial company, then register your email to receive monthly details of the forthcoming walks, and feel free to come on as many or as few as you wish.

We have been pleased to welcome four new members to the Group in the last few months.

July:	A circuit from Chelford	(6 miles - easy)
August:	Alderley Edge and Mottram St Andrew	(6 miles - fairly easy)
September:	A figure-of-eight circuit round Sale and Chorlton Water Parks	(6 miles - easy)
October:	Birch Vale , Lantern Pike, Rowarth, Thornsett	(6 miles - moderate)
November:	Etherow and Werneth Low Country parks from Compstall	(6 miles - moderate)
December:	A shorter winter walk through Bramall Hall Park & Happy Valley, followed by a festive lunch at the Horse and Farrier	(4 miles - easy)

Does the sun always shine for our long walks? Usually but not always - we were in cloud all day for our Etherow and Werneth Low Country parks walk.



At Capesthorpe Hall from Chelford



At Chorlton Water Park



Heading for Mottram St Andrew



Lunch at Mottram St Andrew



Heading for Lantern Pike ...



... and on the summit



No view from the viewpoint at Hacking Knife



Mulled wine, stolen and mince pies for elevenses

Short Walks **Stuart Forsyth 491 3592**

The u3a short walks group undertakes walks between 4 and 5 miles with very few inclines. Anybody wishing to join us would be made very welcome. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month outside the URC at 10:00. Transport is not usually a problem as there are plenty of spare seats in members' cars.

Recent walks have included Daresbury, Sutton Manor, Delamere Forest and Lindow common. This month we had our Christmas lunch at The Boathouse in Sale which was enjoyed by members past and present. If you would like any further information, please contact me.



Group Leader meets Wonderland's White Rabbit at Daresbury



'The Dream' built on previous coal mining site of Sutton Manor



Walk at Lindow Common

The group has continued to meet regularly each month during the past year. When we meet, the host for the evening selects the theme and the wines for that month and then costs are shared. In addition, we hold a 'Summer barbecue evening' and a 'Midwinter dinner'.

Although our typical meeting formats have remained largely unchanged, they always prove to be very interesting and lively evenings of animated discussion, coupled with the opportunity to sample a wide range of different wines and also increase our knowledge of various wines. Looking back, the group has now sampled possibly 500 different wines!

The meetings are held in the homes of the group which effectively limits the overall size of the group to the current ten members. However, I believe there is potential within Cheadle and Gatley u3a for the formation of a second wine related group and we would be very happy to assist in the formation of another group.

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**Answers to Local History Christmas Quiz**

*In this place our hero fought a monster*

The George and Dragon

*Where would Santa go if he felt poorly?*

Gatley 'Elf' Centre

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Christmas 2024 - Group Celebrations



History of Art group enjoy mince pies



Local History group with their Christmas mementoes



Short Walks group - Christmas Meal at the Boathouse, Sale Water Park





Gardening group - Christmas lunch at The Vinery, Bruntwood Park



Book Group 2 - Upper Room in Cheadle

Family History at 'The Clink'



Long Walks group - Christmas lunch at the Horse and Farrier



Explorers Festive Hotel Break in Loch Lomond

December's Open meeting Christmas Celebration at URC



The Meet and Greet Team



Singing for Pleasure Choir



Ukulele group



Into the Hall for Refreshments



Catching up with Friends



Raffle time

Your Cheadle and Gatley u3a Committee

Chair	Margaret Seaby	221 0944
Business Secretary	Gill Brown	491 3623 / 07972 429489
Treasurer	Linda Louch	291 1855
Membership Secretary	Marian Fahy	07914 028502
Speaker Secretary	Heather Wilkinson	428 9278
Groups Co-ordinator	Margaret Seaby	221 0944
Catering Co-ordinator	Elaine Bowker	07833 347231
Network Representative	John Barnard	436 4150
Newsletter Co-ordinator	Tina Kelly	376 7909
Trustee	Sue Somerville	07305 311716



Marian Fahy



Gill Brown

Margaret Seaby

Elaine Bowker

Tina Kelly

John Barnard

Linda Louch

Heather Wilkinson

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The joy of gardening

## Membership

We would be delighted to welcome any new members to join our u3a. Please pass this Newsletter on to anyone that you think might be interested. People are welcome to attend one Monthly Open Meeting or one Interest Group meeting before being required to join the Cheadle and Gatley u3a.

The fee to join is £12 per year (April to March) pro-rata; for example. someone joining in September would pay £7 (for September to March). In addition there is a charge of £2 for each Monthly Open Meeting and often a similar charge for group meetings to cover room hire or refreshments. Renewals are due each April.

**Note:** According to our national u3a website, there is no minimum age but instead a focus on groups of people no longer in full-time employment or raising a family, to come together and continue their enjoyment of learning subjects of interest to them.

## Contacting Our Members

We regard email as an important way to communicate with you, so if you change or acquire a new email address, please let one of the committee know. Then you will not miss out on u3a notices, e.g. about the monthly Open meetings and other useful information. Likewise for phone numbers: as well as your own number, an emergency contact number is requested, in case you should fall ill at a meeting or on a trip out.

## Cheadle and Gatley u3a Website

The link to our new website is <https://cheadle-gatley.u3asite.uk/>

Our website is an important link into all our activities. You can find among other things, links to:

- Copies of our newsletters
- Summaries of group activities
- Member application and renewal forms to print
- Documents to help Convenors
- Privacy, diversity and safeguarding policies
- New members leaflet
- North West region and National u3a websites with details of courses etc.

## Beacon Online u3a Management System

Our version of this national system is now being used. It enables many aspects of membership to be managed online. Our Committee and Group convenors can use it to maintain their membership list and email their groups.

## Note to Convenors

Please give any group activity notices to Gill Brown, our Business Secretary, so they can be displayed at Monthly meetings and emailed to other members. Please notify her if any member has a special birthday, is undergoing serious illness, medical treatment or sad event so that we can send a card as soon as possible.

## North-East Cheshire Network (NECN)

We are part of a regional group of u3as, comprising Bramhall, Cheadle Hulme, Poynton, Macclesfield, Wilmslow and ourselves. These u3as allow some of their groups to be open to fellow members to attend, provided they have evidence of membership of Cheadle and Gatley u3a and pay for attendance at their meeting. Currently, there are approximately 27 Open groups available to you. These are accessed via a link at the bottom of the Groups page on our website.

## Note from the Editor:

Thanks to all who sent in reports and pictures. It does not **have** to be the Group Convenor who contributes, so start collecting now for your next newsletter!

Please send photos with the largest size possible as low size images produce poor print quality.

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THANK YOU FOR PARKING CONSIDERATELY ON ELM ROAD AND
SURROUNDING STREETS WHEN ATTENDING URC MEETINGS.

DETAILS OF INTEREST GROUPS

If you are interested in setting up a new Group, please contact any member of the committee.

Our u3a Network Open Groups are shown below in *italics*.

GROUP	CONVENOR	CONTACT	DATES	TIME	VENUE
Book Group 1	Lesley Witton	428 1522	1st Monday	7:30	House
Book Group 2	Jean Lawrowitsch	428 9678	1st Tuesday	1:30-3:00	Cheadle Library
Book Group 3	Margaret Seaby	221 0944	1st Monday	10:30-12:00	Cheadle Library
<i>Bridge</i>	Linda Ewing	312 5072	1st & 3rd Wednesday	1:30	St James' Hall
Card Games Group	Michelle Slater	07710 883579	4 th Wednesday	1:30	St James' Hall
Computers	Peter Bayley	282 3468	As arranged	Various	House
Craft	Pam Allen	971 1880	3rd Tuesday	10:30-12:00	House
Creative Writing	Nigel Bann	491 6835	2nd Monday	2:00-4:00	House
Cryptic Crosswords	Jane Lloyd	07713 848734	2nd Friday	10.30	Zalo's Cafe
<i>Environment</i>	Peter Briggs	485 6871	2nd Thursday	10:00	Various
Explorers	Janet Farrall	428 7883	3rd Thursday	9:45-11:45	Bethany Church
Family History	Linda Corry	428 4094	1st Tuesday	9:30	House
Gardening	Deborah Connell	07970 103503	4th Thursday	Various	Various
<i>German</i>	Marianne Owen	491 3323	3rd Tuesday	10:00-11:30	URC Hall
History	John Houghton	428 2892	2nd and 4th Friday	1:30	URC Hall
History of Art	Mary Sharples	428 4901	Last Wednesday	1:30	URC Hall
Local History	Lesley Witton	428 1522	First Wednesday	1:30	Cheadle Library
Painting and Drawing	Pat Marsden	428 7820	1st and 3rd Friday	10:30-12:30	URC Hall
Poetry	John Barnard	436 4150	3rd Monday	1:45	URC Hall
Scrabble	Ann Gane	428 0204	Fridays Fortnightly	2:00	House
<i>Singing for Pleasure</i>	Marjorie Maddison	437 7694	2nd and 4th Tuesday	1:00	URC Hall
Spanish (Intermediate)	Michelle Slater	07710 883579	Wednesdays Weekly	10:00-11:00	On Zoom
Theatre Visits	Chris Bester	376 7909	As arranged	Various	Various
Ukulele	Ian Ewing	312 5072	1st and 3rd Tuesday	2:00	St James' Hall
Walking (Long) (About 6 - 8 miles)	Allan Witton	428 1522	3rd Friday	9:15 - 3.00	Meet at Gatley Hill car park
<i>Walking (Short)</i> (About 4 miles)	Stuart Forsyth	491 3592	2nd Thursday	10:00	Meet at URC
Walking (Strollers) (Easy local walks)	Marianne Owen	491 3323	1st and 3rd Monday	10:30	Meet at URC
Wine Appreciation	Peter Bayley	282 3468	Monthly as arranged	7:00	House