

News Sheet

March 2020

Cheadle Hulme



Speakers



Monthly Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 2pm in St Andrew's Church, Cheadle Road, Cheadle Hulme, SK8 5ET.

5th March **They should've asked my Husband**

Susan Holden

2nd April **The Liverpoolcowkeepers**

Dave Joy

The Liverpoolcowkeepers became part of the life and economy in the City and continued to serve it's people for over a hundred years. They overcame many challenges and survived through hard work, good business nous and the ability to adapt.

Spanish

Hilary Lightfoot advises that the Spanish Beginners group has been rebranded as Spanish Improvers.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 6th February and was attended by 61 members with 3 apologies for absence.

The Vice-Chairman, Shirley Cawthra, welcomed all members and explained that, as the Chairman Sue Somerville has resigned, she would be taking the meeting and reading Sue's report.

Reports

This is my first annual report as **Chairman** of Cheadle Hulme U3A

There has been changes from the Committee as voted in at the last AGM. Bea Crisp, Anthia Frank, Jackie Chang and Barry Richards have resigned from the committee. We currently have vacancies which have been difficult to fill on the Committee. We need to recruit a Secretary to the committee, a Group Administrator, a Vice Chair and more recently a Chair in order to take the Cheadle Hulme U3A forward into 2020.

Earlier in 2019 after failure to recruit a Treasurer, Walt Denning kindly stepped into the role of Treasurer. During the period of Walt Denning's illness this year, the Chair stepped up to help with the role of the Treasurer for just over three months. I would like to thank Walt Denning for all his work as Treasurer, a role which he also contributed to during his illness.

I would also like to take this opportunity of thanking other U3A members who help with various activities. Our monthly meetings rely on volunteers to make teas and coffees, give out literature, set up chairs and tables, and look after the sound and projection systems. Apart from the Group Leaders there are many other unsung members who help organise outings and events and their assistance is much appreciated.

Our groups have continued to prosper with opening of a highly popular Practical Art Group last September: this Group is open to Bramhall U3A. Unfortunately our Tai Chi group closed after the resignation of the group leader.

The Committee is still concerned about the lack of growth in our membership and will be working on a marketing strategy in 2020. They are looking to put adverts in local magazines and papers. We did have around seven new members towards the end of last year.

I would like to conclude by thanking all of you for supporting Cheadle Hulme U3A. We are always on the lookout for ideas for new groups and for new activities. If you think you can help in any way, please let a Committee member know.

In the **Treasurer's Report** Walt Denning presented a statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the year ended 31st December 2019. It has been audited and approved by Alistair Gardner as authorised at the 2019 AGM.

It was proposed by Margaret Crowther and seconded by Kelvin Vann that this Statement be accepted.

Walt also indicated that Alistair Gardner is willing to audit the Account next year. This was approved by the meeting.

In her **Events Report**, Pat Vermes said that there had been an interesting programme of events this year, thanks to members who have given their time and energy to organising day outings, theatre trips, church visits and social get togethers. In May, we had an outing to Tabley House, a Palladian mansion near to Knutsford. After an informative and interesting guided tour of the house, we gathered in the tearooms for excellent cakes and tea. The performance at Clonter Opera in July was an outstanding production of Don Giovanni, certainly a most unusual production, full of youthful exuberance and talent. In September, a group of us had a coach outing to Derby, the prime purpose being to visit the Joseph Wright exhibition at the art gallery, where we had an informative and enlightening talk. After lunch we separated, some to explore the cathedral and some to visit Pickford House, a museum of Georgian life and costume. In October, a small group went to a production of Guys and Dolls at the Stockport Plaza. The performance was as polished and professional as ever, and very enjoyable. The year was rounded off by a Christmas lunch cruise along the Bridgewater Canal, the river Irwell and the Manchester Ship Canal. The weather was fine, the food delicious and the information and sights stimulating; a good time was had by all.

Several events are planned for 2020, among them a visit to Halifax in May to explore Shibden Hall and the historic Piece Hall.

In the membership Report, Jackie Chang said that last year she reported a downward trend in our membership from the previous year. This year, she was sorry to say that this downward trend is increasing. We ended 2018 with 226 members and we end 2019 with 214 members. This has happened despite the fact that more new members joined this year than last. In 2018 we had 27 new members and this year we had 36. However we lost more in 2019 than previously mainly due to health problems and family commitments. This is disappointing but not yet disastrous and I want to assure you that the Committee is constantly reviewing the situation and putting in place new ways of attracting new members. I'm sure we would all like to see Cheadle Hulme U3A as a growing organisation and not one that is static or decreasing year on year in this way.

Each monthly meeting attracted 72 members on average. This is a slight increase on last year's figure. We hoped that the move to this venue would result in an increased attendance but so far this has not happened. However the good thing is, in my opinion, that the move has not had an adverse effect on attendance.

Since October last year I have been asking for membership renewal fees for 2020. I would like to thank those of you who were willing to pay your fee well before it was due. This avoids the hassle of getting everything done during January and February. This year about 60 fees are still outstanding and over the next few weeks, I shall contact these people either by phone, email or by letter to remind them that fees are due. I shall be very grateful if any of you here today can remind any absent friends that the time has come to renew their membership. Equally, if you know of anybody who is not well enough to renew, please let me know so that I don't bother them.

In her **Speaker's Secretary Report**, Bernadette Murray-Robb recalled a good variety of speakers at the monthly meetings including musical performances and more educational topics which had included a good deal of humour. The Christmas Party had been held at Heald Green Village Hall and, after some difficulties in securing a performer, a good time was had by all. She was sorry to report that one of our regular presenters, Dr Jennifer Palmer, was seriously ill and wished her a speedy recovery.

Bernadette reported that in her role as **Secretary** she had kept in contact with the U3A Head Office and with the local Network groups.

Election of Officers and Committee Members.

John Broadbent had carefully studied our Constitution which states that, if a Committee member resigns in the course of their term in office, the Committee may appoint or co-opt a substitute to serve until that term expires.

The meeting agreed that this is the way to proceed.

The following have been nominated to the Committee:

Vice-Chairman: Shirley Cawthra; Proposed by Walt Denning; Seconded by Bernadette Murray-Robb

Committee Members: John Broadbent; Proposed by George Rogers; Seconded by Kelvin Vann.
Sue Cuffe; Proposed by Bernadette Murray-Robb. Seconded by Jackie Chang.

These appointments were unanimously approved.

Barry Richards has resigned from the Committee, but will continue to monitor the website. Barry was thanked for his service on the Committee and presented him with a gift token.

2020 Committee

Chair	vacancy
Vice-Chair	Shirley Cawthra
Secretary	Bernadette Murray-Robb
Treasurer	Walt Denning
Membership Secretary	Neil Rackham
Events	Pat Vermes
A/V	John Broadbent
	Sue Cuffe

Future Monthly Meetings

7th May

Vintage Pearls

A fabulous unique duo singing an eclectic selection of wonderful songs from many decades

4th June

Styal Prison

Eddy Terry

HMP Styal is a closed category prison for female adults and young offenders

2nd July

Wildlife Photographer

Russ Hedley

Secrets of the Waterways

6th August

Musicians

Matthew and Yvonne Pinder

A medley of songs and instrument and stories

Events

Shibden Hall

A visit to Shibden Hall on **Tuesday, 12th May**.

A.M. : visit to Shibden Hall , home of Anne Lister- Gentleman Jack- , which dates back to 1420.

P.M.: Guided tour of the Halifax Piece Hall, dating from 1779.

Cost: Coach: £19.50 including driver's tip; guided tour of Piece Hall £6; small entry fee to Shibden Hall, payable on day.

Please pay £25.50 by cheque, by April 2nd. Organiser: Peggy Dutton.

Clonter Opera

Thursday July 16th at 7 pm.

Clonter Opera's production this year is **Rossini's Barber of Seville**.

Cost £15. Please note that payment must be made by April 2nd.

Carshare possible.

Organiser: Pat Vermes.

Groups

Photography.

The group meets on the second Tuesday of the month.at 10am in Café Unity, Heald Green.

Next meeting: **Tuesday 10th March** at 10am in Café Unity, Heald Green

Topic for the month: How to use portable transparency/negative scanner.

Contact: Neil Rackham.

Computer Group

The group meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month

Next meeting: **Tuesday 24th March** at 10am in Café Unity, Heald Green.

Subjects this month:

iCloud –What is stored and how to prune it?

General management and maintenance

Storage Devices

Problem Corner

Group leader: Kelvin Vann.

Technology for Everyone

The Group meets in Heald Green Village Hall on the **1st Tuesday** of the month

7th April Neil Sheldon - Lies, Damned Lies and Statistics

5th May - Visit to the Amazon Fulfilment Centre, Manchester.

Group Leader: Tina Menges.

Music Appreciation

The next meeting will be on **Monday 16th March** at 2pm

“Spring”

Hosted by: Peter Hobson at1 Chelworth Manor, 37 Manor Road, Bramhall SK7 3LX .

Group leader: Terry Bridal.

Board Games

The group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Cheadle Library from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 26th March** when we will play Scrabble.

Group Leader: Philippa FitzPatrick

Spanish Improvers

This group is for anyone with a little knowledge of Spanish to look at every day situations you may meet on holiday.The Group meets on the second and fourth Monday mornings in the month.

To join, contact the Group Leader Hilary Lightfoot for details of the next meeting.

Monday Lunchtime Diners

Our next meeting will be on **Monday 9th March**, 12.15pm for 12.30pm at The Hesketh, Cheadle Hulme. If you are joining us for the first time, please tell a member of staff that you are with the U3A and they will show you where our table is booked .

For more details contact Anne Webster.

Thursday Evening Diners.

We will arrange the meal again on Thursday 19th March, when more members are likely to be available.

Details.

The Griffin. 124 Wilmslow Road, Heald Green, Cheadle, SK8 3BE. Tel. 0161 437 2459.

Parking at the pub/restaurant: access on Finney Lane (off Wilmslow Road).

Time: 6.30p.m.

Cuisine: English Pub Food, Carvery and Pizzas. Full menu on website..

Please pay for bar drinks separately to simplify the bill.

Organisers: Walter and Philippa FitzPatrick.

Please let us know if you are coming by Monday 16th March.

Strollers 1

Wednesday 11th March. Short stroll (hard surface path)

Coffee at the Garden Centre by Cheshire Line Tavern. Lunch, and parking at The Ash Lea.

Meet at 10.15am for 10.30 start at URC Swann Lane.

Walk Leader: Gillian Rowe. Group leaders: Gillian Rowe (439 4363) & Anne Webster (485 2169)

Strollers 2

Wednesday 11th March

We are going to **Fletcher Moss and the Parsonage Gardens**, followed by lunch at The Cheshire Line Tavern. .As usual, we meet at Heald Green Village Hall car park at 10.15 to leave at 10.30.

PLEASE will you let us know if you plan to come. Walk leaders: Margaret and George Rogers

Church Visiting

Tuesday 7th April. The Salvation Army, 121, Stockport Road, Edgeley, SK3 0JE

Meet at 10.30am Suggested donation £4

This will be followed by lunch at the Micker Brook, Cheadle.

Further details from Chris Read.

Art Appreciation

Group Leader: Bernadette Murray-Robb (498 8837).

The group meets on the **third Thursday of the month** in Heald Green Village hall at 2pm.

Thursday 19th March — t.b.a.

Thursday 16th April - Visit to Haworth Art Gallery, Accrington with a tour of the **Tiffany Glass Collection**.

Practical Art

The Practical Art Group has got off to a flying start in its first term and will continue in 2020. The Spring and Summer term dates are as follows:

10.03.2020

24.03.2020

06.04.2020- please note that this date is out of sequence due to the Bank Holiday

27.04.2020

11.05.2020

01.06.2020- please note that this date is out of sequence due to the Bank Holiday

08.06.2020

22.06.2020

13.07.2020

27.07.2020

We meet at the Cheadle and District Scout Hut on Oak Avenue in Cheadle Hulme from 10 am to 12 pm. The group is developing drawing and painting skills in mixed media. New members are welcome and no previous experience is required.

Please contact the group leader sue.cuffe@ntlworld.com for further information.

Book Group 1.

Meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month. They start at 10am with tea or coffee. New members welcome.

Next meeting: **Tuesday 7th April**

Group Contact: Pauline Millward.

Book Group 2

The group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10.00am at Café Unity, Heald Green. A £2.00 fee is payable on arrival for the use of the room. Coffee is available at the start, and a further drink can be ordered and paid for, to be delivered upstairs at about 11.00am.

Next meeting: Tuesday 17th March

Group Leader: Barry Richards.

Local Theatre Group

Contact: Derek Moffitt.

Friday 24th April. Brookdale Theatre. **'Anything Goes'** by Cole Porter. Musical.

Booking Thursday 2nd April. Tickets £11.50. Start 7.30.

Friday 29th May. Players Theatre. **'Separate Tables'** by Terence Rattigan.

Booking Thursday 7th May. Tickets £10.00. Start 7.45.

Friday 19th June. Garrick Theatre. **'The Heiress'** by Ruth and Augustus Goetz.

Booking Thursday 7th May. Tickets £10.50. Start 7.30.

Looking Back

Technology for Everyone 4th February 2020.

Penny L. Cristinacce. Using an image to understand Physiology.

The mere title of this talk almost brought this scribe into submission but this lovely young lady did a superb job in explaining the most mind-blowing, technical medical scanning equipment currently in use.

The one most of us understand is the X-ray machine normally used for bone fractures etc. This X-ray image gives the doctor or physician a picture of the problem which then allows a correct diagnosis or procedure to take place.

Then there is the Ultrasound machine which is a non-invasive scanner, useful for maternity cases.. The Positron Emission Topography scanner is used to map selected areas and is useful in the diagnosis of metastatic cancer.

Penny's forte was the MRI method (Magnetic Resonance Imaging). The basic concept is the use of a very powerful magnetic field in the order of 5 tesla. (bottom of the class if your mind was imagining motor cars). It transpires the body is 60% water. The hydrogen element in the water acts like a gyroscope when under this powerful magnetic beam and lines up with it. The values are recorded and then the machine moves to scan another slice at a different angle, then another and another until the scan is complete.

All these values are processed into individual images where they can be viewed, compared and analysed by truly clever people to help them understand how the body works. The comforting fact that the procedure is non-invasive and apart from its operational noise, usually drowned by earphones, the patient comes back unscathed.

Derek Moffitt volunteered to give the vote of thanks on our behalf along with a bottle of 'Je ne sais quoi' for a daunting yet wonderful presentation.

Report by Peter Hobson.

THE DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MAY NEWS SHEET IS SUNDAY 3rd MAY.