

# News Sheet

May 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.

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

### A Message from our Vice-Chairman.

Shirley Cawthra writes "Looking out on the pretty flowers in my garden, it helps me to focus on positives amidst our shared crisis.

I hope everyone is staying well. Even though we cannot meet it is good to stay in touch - so welcome to our monthly news sheet. It includes some interesting tips about ways U3A members are keeping themselves entertained and learning new things. If you have got tips or news of your own to share, do let the Editor know.

### Lockdown

All group meetings are currently suspended until Government guidelines are revised to allow them and until premises will allow social distancing. Please contact the appropriate group leader for up to date information.

Some groups are functioning using Skype, Zoom or WhatsApp technology. Some details are given in the groups section of this newssheet.

Neil Rackham is hosting an "At Home Quiz" and if anybody wants to join they could email him at [neil.rackham@me.com](mailto:neil.rackham@me.com). The quiz is conducted on Skype on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 11.00am. If you don't have Skype capability on your computer then Neil can email the questions in advance.

The poetry group is exchanging ideas and recommendations; Margaret Crowther communicates regularly with members of the French Study group and Pat Vermes has sent a new song, with music, to members of the Singing group and another one is in preparation.

John Broadbent continues to produce newsletters for the Art Appreciation and Technology for Everyone Groups. If you would like to receive these, please contact John at [john.broadbent@stcatz.oxon.org](mailto:john.broadbent@stcatz.oxon.org).

## Future Monthly Meetings

We hope to be able to resume monthly meetings in July but this will be subject to Government advice and availability of the Church premises.

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

### Clonter Opera

This year's performance of The Barber of Seville is cancelled but Clonter Opera is hoping to show excerpts of past performances online.

## Groups

### **Computer Group**

We are going to try and do a Skype Computer club maybe once every 2 weeks, starting next week 11/5 or 13/5. If people are interested even if they currently not a member of the computer group please contact Neil Rackham at [neil.rackham@me.com](mailto:neil.rackham@me.com).

### **Practical Art**

Our tutor, Mel Edge, has been setting a daily creative challenge via Facebook.

The Practical Art Group Summer term dates are as follows:

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. Subject to availability.

Please contact the group leader [sue.cuffe@ntlworld.com](mailto:sue.cuffe@ntlworld.com) for further information.

## Book Group 2

Barry Richards is planning to restart the group, possibly on Skype. If you are interested, please contact him at [barryrichards@mac.com](mailto:barryrichards@mac.com) or look at the CHU3A website.

## Looking Back

### Technology for Everyone—3rd March 2020..

#### **The Underground Canals of Worsley, by Judith Atkinson.**

Worsley's underground canal system was a network of tunnels that gave access to the rich coal seams in the area, some 20 or so running east to west. The system not only allowed access to coal seams: it was also a means of drainage and a source of water for the Bridgewater Canal. All of this occurred in the 1770s.

The whole project was owned by the Earl of Elsmere later to become the Duke of Bridgewater, but the concept was that of his estate manager and steward John Gilbert, although credit for the achievement was claimed by James Brindley.

While the coal seams ran east to west the main canal drove north from Worsley intersecting the seams on its way. At these intersections side canals would be driven east to west and west to east to cross the seams with air shafts every 70 m or so. Every so often there would be a major shaft known as a colliery which was used also as access for miners and the extraction of the coal. To complicate matters the coal seams could be on to 3 levels which meant three levels of canals. Coal also needed to be extracted through the main tunnel and to facilitate this an ingenious system of inclined planes was designed by John Gilbert which allowed boat loads of coal to be floated into a lock. The lock was then drained, lowering the boat onto a bogey which then rolled down the inclined plane to the main tunnel level, at the same time pulling another boat up to be reloaded with coal. Another of his clever ideas was to have a chain of buckets, fill each bucket from a lake at the surface with water which, as water is heavier than coal, would be used to lift a corresponding bucket of coal to the surface.

Such was the rate of coal extraction that a second main tunnel had to be dug, thus creating, what was, a one-way system. Coal extraction at this point was of the order of 1600 tonnes per week.

By the 1880s the system had become uneconomic with the advent of newer technologies and the arrival of the railroad.

Paddy Macdonnell

**THE DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE JULY NEWS SHEET IS SUNDAY 5th JULY.**