



Monthly Meetings

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

Thursday January 4th

Jim Williams - Forgers and Forgery.

Thursday February 1st

**Annual General Meeting.
Followed by a talk from Greater Manchester Waste Department.**

Thursday March 7th

Peter Mellor - The JFK Assassination.

Chairman's Statement

A Happy New Year to you all and I hope you have had an enjoyable and peaceful Christmas and not over indulged too much.

With the New Year brings a number of proposed new activities for our members details of some are attached to the newsheet. Also there are details of our proposed trip to Piece and Shibden Halls both near Halifax. Don't forget that we can only offer these events and activities if they are supported in sufficient numbers by our members.

As you will be aware we had to hold an EGM in November because of the drop in numbers on the committee. I am pleased to report that we have had a number of volunteers who have now taken up posts and we are able to continue to provide our members with an active committee. Thank you all.

A quick reminder for those of you that have not yet renewed your membership, please do so in the near future.

Please don't forget that our AGM is on 1st February and we would love to see you there to provide your support and votes for those members who are standing for election to the committee this year. Also its the time to raise any comments with the committee for the running of our u3a.

Again Happy New Year to you all and enjoy your u3a.

Neil Rackham.

New Activities for Cheadle Hulme u3a

We are starting up some new activities for members who may be interested in joining. These are Pickleball, indoor bowls, and table tennis.

The venue will be at Ladybridge Park Residents' Club and all equipment will be provided. The events will take place on the first and third Wednesday morning of each month from 10:00 till 12:00.

The cost per person per session will £2.00 head with the facility of hot or cold drinks. Coffee is £2.20 a cup.

If you are interested in participating in any or all of the activities please contact the chairman.

It is proposed that the first meeting will be on February 7th, 2024

Pickle Ball



Pickleball is a sport that combines elements of tennis, ping pong, and badminton into one family-friendly game. It can be played singles or doubles on a court that looks like a tennis court but is much smaller. Instead of tennis rackets, you use paddles and a plastic ball.

Indoor Bowls



The game starts with the toss of a coin and the lead player rolls the jack which is moved to the centre of the rink. Bowlers take it in turns. Once all the bowls have been played, each team gets a point for every bowl landing closer to the jack than their rivals' nearest bowl.

Table Tennis



Table tennis is a racket sport derived from tennis but distinguished by its playing surface being on a stationary table, rather than the court on which players stand.

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 and clicking on the link on the rolling front page.

3 Mile Walking Group

The group meets on second Wednesday of the month at an agreed location for a walk up to 3miles miles in length. The walk will terminate at a local hostelry for drinks and refreshments before returning home. If you wish to take a snack or packed lunch for consumption part way round that's fine.

Please contact Neil Rackham for details or look on the Groups page of our website (chu3a.org.uk) for details of all walks this year.

6 Mile Walking Group

Martin Shire is organising walks up to 6 miles in length, which start and end at a local hostelry. So far, walks have been in Alderley Park, around Swettenham and in Rode Heath.

There will usually be a coffee/lunch stop at the halfway point.

Transport to/from the start and end location will be car sharing of group members.

If you are interested in these walks, please contact Martin who will add you to a WhatsApp group where details of forthcoming events will be posted.

Group Leader: Martin Shire

Local Theatre Group

Neighbourhood Watch by Alan Ayckbourn at CHADS.

A cautionary tale whose title speaks for itself.

Our first visit in 2024 for performances on **February 2nd at 7.45 pm and February 3rd at 2.30 pm.**

Tickets are £12.

Contact: Hilary Lightfoot

Poetry Discussion Group

The Poetry Discussion Group is meeting once more on the **second Friday of each month** in members' homes at 2:00 p.m., and we are now seeking new members.

If you have an interest in poetry, do join us. Just contact the group leader, David Greenfield, for details of the next meeting.

Group Leader: David Greenfield

Book Group 1

We meet in members' houses on the **1st Tuesday of the month starting at 10.15am**; coffee/tea is provided by the Host on arrival.

We take turns in choosing a book which everyone reads and discusses.

New members welcome.

For details of the next meeting please contact the Organiser: Pat Vermes.

Book Group 2

Book Group 2 will meet on the **third Tuesday of each month** at 10 a.m. at **Ladybridge Connect, Cheadle Hulme**. A room charge will apply.

Please contact the Group Leaders to find out more.

Although a flourishing group, it welcomes new members and anyone is free to come along.

Group Co-Leaders: Barry Richards and Steve Normansell.

German Group

This group meets at the Quaker Meeting House, Cheadle Hulme on the **3rd** Wednesday of the month at 2.30 p.m. **Please note change of week.**

The group would welcome new members.

It is intended for those who already speak some German.

To join, please contact the group leader: Susan Brayzier.

German Intermediate Group

The German intermediate group is for people who are proficient enough in German to GCSE standard. The sessions include conversations in German together with grammar exercises.

If you would like to join the group they would be pleased to see you, as new members are always welcome.

If you are interested in joining, please contact the group leader: Jean Cox

Canasta Group

A new group for all you canasta players. It meets on the **second Tuesday afternoon at 2:00pm at the John Millington**. If you have not played before but would like to try please come along.

If you are interested in joining please contact Judi Cooke.

Board Games Group

We meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at Cheadle Library from 2 to 4 p.m.

We will next meet on Wednesday 24 January at 2.00 p.m. at Cheadle Library.

We will play TRIOMINOS

Prior to meeting, those who wish will also meet at the **Cheshire Line Restaurant at 2.15 p.m.** for a meal.

Price - £2.00 per session, collected at the start of the session.

Organiser: Philippa FitzPatrick.

Technology for Everyone - The Appliance of Science

The Group meets in Heald Green Village Hall at 2p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month.

The Group does not meet in January.

The next meeting will be at 2pm on Tuesday February 6th in Heald Green Village Hall when **Peter Goodhew will tell us about “Glass - the art and the science”**

All welcome.

Group Leader: Roger Law.

Practical Art

The Group meets on the **2nd and 4th Monday of the month** at the Scout Hut, Oak Avenue, Cheadle Hulme from 2-4pm. Members of all abilities welcome. The Group is guided by local artist Mel Edge.

The confirmed dates for next term are: January 8th and 22nd; February 12th and 26th;; March 11th and 25th.

Once we know how many people are attending, then the cost of the room hire for the term can be decided,

New members are very welcome, no experience required.

Group Leader: Sue Cuffe.

Photographic Group

The club welcomes all abilities of individuals and meets on the **second Tuesday of each month at 10am at Ladybridge Park Club**. At the meetings we discuss and try and resolve each others' photographic problems, as well as talks on various photographic issues.

We also have a monthly field trip to take photographs as a group within the Greater Manchester area, to improve our photographic talents and to put into practice techniques we have learned at the monthly meetings.

Each member posts a number of their photos taken on field trips on Facebook page “<https://www.facebook.com/CHU3APhotoClub/>”

Spanish

The Spanish Group meets at 2pm on the **second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.**

Do contact Hilary Lightfoot if you wish to join.

Art Appreciation

The Group meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at Heald Green Village Hall.

Our next meeting will be on **18th January** when two of our members will be giving talks on:

Dale Chihuly – American glass artist.

The Tactile properties of various objects.

Cost: £3.00 per meeting

Interim contacts: John Broadbent & Sarah Pugh.

Bridge Group

The Bridge Group meets at members' homes on the **2nd and 4th Thursdays** of the month starting at 2pm.

New members are most welcome. It is a friendly, easy-going group.

For details please contact Group Leader: Judi Cooke.

Music Appreciation Group

The Next meeting at Terry Bridal's house is on **Monday 15th January** at 2pm and the programme is "**Scandinavian Composers**" and will feature music by Grieg, Nielsen and Sibelius.

The February meeting will be on Monday 19 February at 2 pm and the programme is "**Serenade or A Little Night Music**"

For further details contact Terry Bridal.

At Home Quiz Group

During lockdown restriction it was decided to start an online quiz. This is still ongoing after 3½ years on **Zoom every Thursday morning at 11am** and is a weekly quiz of general knowledge covering a variety of subjects, together with a downloaded table round which you have a day to complete.

It seems that the current participants keep coming back for more, so not too bad then!

So if any of our members wish to join us you will always be made welcome, and we hope to see some participants over the coming weeks

If you wish to participate, contact the quizmaster and group leader, Neil Rackham.

Computer Group

For those of us who have problems in understanding some of the modern technology we use daily. Or if your understanding has grasped some of these technologies and you are prepared to share it with others, then the computer club is for you.

The Computer Club meets at Ladybridge Park Club on the 4th Tuesday of each month from 10:00am until 12:00 noon.

Monday Lunch Group

The group meets on the **Monday following each monthly meeting** at the Governors House, 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.

Third Thursday Evening Diners

Our next meal will be at Romulus Restaurant (Italian cuisine) in the centre of Bramhall on Thursday 18th January.

Time: 6.00 pm for 6.15 pm for the Early Bird Offer of a Starter. Main Course and Coffee for £17.95. (Dec 2023 price).

Organiser: Walter FitzPatrick _____

Scrabble Group

Enjoy playing Scrabble? We meet on the last Friday of the month at 2pm at members' homes.

The next meeting is **Friday 26th January** .

For details contact Maureen Rackham.

French “pot pourri”

The resurrected French Study group will meet on **Monday 8th of January** and subsequently on the **first Monday of the month**. Do come and brush up your French.

Contact: Hilary Lightfoot.

Italian Group

The Group meets on **alternate Friday afternoons** in members' houses.

We are practising our reading, writing and listening skills. We are following a grammar textbook course and also enjoy reading short stories in Italian.

The group is now at an intermediate level and not suitable for a beginner.

If you would like to join us, please contact the Group Organiser: Pat Clayton.

The Mac Group

The Group meets at **Ladybridge Park Club, Cheadle Hulme** on the **second Monday of the month** at 10 a.m. until 12 noon.

The aim is to cover at least two topics per session, one of which will be for iOS devices (iPhone and iPad).

For more information contact Barry Richards

Looking Back

Technology Group - talk on Meteorites.

Sixteen members attended this meeting to listen to Dr Pete Webb of SSE Consulting, Hayfield talk about Meteorites. These heavenly bodies are the remains of meteors which have passed through the Earth's atmosphere and hit the ground. Generally they are quite small and do little damage but occasionally a larger one does come our way and the effect on our planet can be catastrophic e.g. Chicxulub and the end of the dinosaurs. They are thought to have arisen from collisions between asteroids and often have eccentric orbits. Should these cross the Earth's orbit then the possibility of a serious collision becomes very interesting indeed. A recent NASA experiment to deflect an on-coming asteroid by colliding a spacecraft with it has proved successful so perhaps there is hope for us all. From radioisotope decay ratios it has been found that most meteorites were formed at the same time as when the recognised solar system was formed about 4.5 billion years ago. Earlier this year a spacecraft collected a surface sample from an asteroid called Bennu and returned it to Earth, where it has been extensively analysed and found to contain water and carbon.

There are three different types of meteorite found on Earth: stoney (mainly mineral 86%+, stoney with an Fe(iron)/Ni(nickel) core 2%+, and substantially just the Fe/Ni core 5%+. Some of these can be partially melted (called differentiated) and some are not (called undifferentiated).

The recent arrival of the carbonaceous (stoney) meteorite in Winchcombe in February 2021 sparked much interest since it was found to contain water and many basic organic compounds. The water has the same composition as that in Earth's oceans raising the question whether meteorites might in part be responsible for the latter.

A lively Q & A session followed at the end of the lecture.

Report by Roger Perry .

Waterproofing Tunnels.

Fifteen members attended this meeting to listen to Dr Mehrdad Paykazadi of Sterling Lloyd talk about Waterproofing Tunnels. The unintentional entry of water (rain, fresh, or salt) into a tunnel usually via seams is a problem which has to be solved at all costs. The best solution for rock tunneling appears to be by installing a three-tiered integrated system of plastic (PVC, HDPE, PMMA or PE) sandwiched between two layers of reinforced concrete. The waterproof layer is usually sprayed on in two coats and allowed to dry before the final concrete layer is added. Tube tunnels for immersion in water are best constructed in sections out of the water with plastic seals and membranes and then sunk to the sea bed and connected into a continuous tunnel.

Various stages of construction were illustrated showing the different requirements within different environments.

Report by Roger Perry

THE DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH 2024 NEWSHEET IS FRIDAY 1st MARCH.