



## Monthly Meetings

Monthly Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 2pm.  
Please note that the venue of meetings changes

Thursday March 7th

Peter Mellor - The JFK Assassination.

**In Ladybridge Park Club, SK8 5PX.**

Thursday April 4th

Prof. Nigel Linge – The Red Telephone Box

**in St Andrew's Church, Cheadle Hulme, SK8 5ET.**

Thursday May 2nd

Pete McEvoy (Stockport Police) - Fraud Awareness:  
The latest scams and how to protect yourself and others.

**In Ladybridge Park Club, SK8 5PX.**

### Annual General Meeting Held at St Andrew's Church on Thursday 1st February 2024.

Present: Neil Rackham (Chair) and 62 members.

Apologies for absence were received from Mick Johnson.

Minutes of the 2023 AGM were circulated in the March 2023 Newsletter following last year's meeting. There were no matters arising.

#### Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that membership has increased to pre-covid levels and, along with it, there has also been a financial improvement.

We have also seen an increase in the number of interest groups, with four new ones being added during the year, and a further three due to start in 2024.

We have also been able to resume external trips, including to both Chester and Cascade Gardens, and thanks are due to Alyson Williams for the organisation of these.. There will be another trip in April, this time to Halifax.

The Chairman concluded his report by expressing gratitude to past and present members of the Committee and to all the Group Leaders for their hard work in making it a successful year.

## Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer commenced by reminding the meeting that his report is a snapshot of the year's activity, and does not involve any accounting conventions.

After having suffered a financial loss last year, and an even larger one the year before, I am pleased to say that we have returned a small surplus.

As a result of restarting our external trips, our turnover has gone above the £5,000 threshold which allowed us to operate as a club under the auspices of the Third Age Trust. We are now obliged to register with the Charity Commission as a charity in our own right.

It is still the case that a large part of our expenditure is on the hire of premises and speakers. Much of this is refunded by members themselves, but the hire of our venue for monthly meetings is not, and we are looking for alternative venues, which would be more suitable and more cost-effective.

We also lost money on the 2023 Christmas Party, and it is inevitable that we will have to change the funding procedures for any such future events.

However, the Committee has decided to keep the membership fee at £14 per year on the assumption that we can keep other costs in check.

Alistair Gardner was thanked for verifying the accounts.

## Election of Committee

The following members were nominated for the relevant offices:

Vice Chair — John McAnally

Speakers' Co-ordinator — Jack Large

Membership Secretary — Sue Dailey

Groups Co-Ordinator — Sarah Pugh

All were unanimously accepted by the membership.

## Appointment of Examiner

This item is now in abeyance pending Charity Commission rulings.

## Any Other Business

George Rogers offered a vote of thanks to all those who have volunteered their services over the past year.

## Close of Meeting

Neil Rackham congratulated the new members of the Committee and thanked the membership for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 2.28pm.

## **Cheadle Hulme U3A 2024 Committee**

**Name**

**Role**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Role</u></b>	
Neil Rackham	Chairman	
Steve Normansell	Secretary	
Walt Denning	Treasurer	
John McAnally	Vice-Chairman	
Sue Dailey	Membership	
Sarah Pugh	Groups Co-ordinator	
Jack Large	Speakers secretary	
Dorothy Connor Barbara Haynes	Events	
John Broadbent	Audio/visual	
Elisabeth Jefferies		

## **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.

### **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

## **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 Leader: 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.

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.

The group meets on the **2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 10.30am**. 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 and fourth 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 will meet on Wednesday 27th March at 2.00p.m. at Cheadle Library. There is free parking at the library. We will play **Scrabble**.

For those who wish to join us early, we will first meet at The Cheshire Line Pub/Restaurant at 12.15p.m. for a pub lunch.

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 next meeting will be on **April 2nd** when **Royce Lowis from Poynton U3A** will tell us about **“Electricity Generation, Storage and Usage”**

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 are April 8th & 22nd, May 13th & 27th, June 10th & 24th, 8th July.**

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/>”

## **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

## Art Appreciation

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

Our next meeting will be on **21st March when Elizabeth Jowett** will tell us about the **Conservation of Paintings**

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 of the Music Appreciation Group will be on **Monday 18th March at 2 pm** and the programme is **'The Musicals Of Sir Tim Rice'**.

Sir Tim Rice is a multi-award winning lyricist who has collaborated with Andrew Lloyd Webber, Elton John, Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson from ABBA and other less well-known composers. Many of the musicals have been huge hits but others less so.

The programme will feature an interview with the lyricist and examples of his work from a variety of musicals.

For further details contact Terry Bridal.

## At Home Quiz Group

During lockdown restriction it was decided to start an online quiz. The is still ongoing after 3½ years on **Zoom every other 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 Club**

The group meets on the first **Monday of the month** 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: Liz Perry

## **Third Thursday Evening Diners**

Our next meal will be at **Bombay to Mumbai Restaurant**, 10 Fir Road, Bramhall. SK7 2NP. They specialise in Indian Cuisine. Date: **Thursday 21 March**. Time: **6.15p.m.**

There is ample On Street parking, but please do not park on the Ladybrook Pub car park.

Please let me know if you are coming by Monday 18 March

Organiser: Walter FitzPatrick

## **Scrabble Group**

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

For details contact Maureen Rackham

## **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.

## **French "pot pourri"**

The resurrected French Study group will meet on the **first Monday of the month at 10.30am**. 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

## 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.

### **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.



## **Looking Back**

### **Technology for Everyone Group, report on “Glass”**

26 members including guests from the u3a North East Cheshire Network and the Cheadle Hulme u3a Art Appreciation Group attended this meeting to listen to Prof Peter Goodhew, a retired material scientist from Chester u3a talk about “Glass - the unsung wonder material”. The talk was illustrated by slides showing several examples of the properties of various types of glass, and examples of glass artwork. Peter explained why we can generally see through it and how it can be toughened to make it more useful. It is in fact a supercooled liquid which becomes more rigid by preventing it from crystallising.

He discussed its basic composition and how its colour can be changed by adding various other oxides to the basic mix. He went on to discuss the various types of toughened glass and what these were primarily used for. Most commercial plain glass is now made by floating a stream of molten glass across a bath of molten tin by what is called the Float Glass process.

He finished the lecture by briefly explaining how glass fibre is made and how useful this product is to the telecommunications industry.

Report by Roger Perry.