



Monthly Meetings

Monthly Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 2pm. In Ladybridge Park Club, SK8 5PX.

Thursday May 2nd

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

Thursday June 6th

**Brian Groome - Made in Manchester: The Story of the City
that Shaped the Modern World.**

Thursday July 4th

T.B.A.

Chairman's Statement

Welcome to Spring. With the coming of the warmer, if still somewhat wet weather, our outdoor activities increase, and I hope you are taking advantage of the improving conditions. There are a number of our groups which take advantage of meeting outdoors.

Our recent trip to Halifax appears to have gone very well according to the reports I have received back from some of you, and we look forward to another trip later in the year. The technology for everyone group is running a trip to Greater Manchester's Materials recovery unit at Sharston in the near future' if you are interested please contact Roger Law for details.

Currently our numbers are down on the end of last year and I would ask that all those of you who have not paid to date, please do so in the near future so that close off this years membership. For those of you who do not wish to renew if you could let me know at chair@chu3a.org.uk why this is I would be most grateful so that I and the committee can address any concerns about membership.

I hope that you have a pleasant Spring and take part in our activities and I will see you at the monthly meeting at our new venue at Ladybridge Park Residents' Club. Which reminds me the Club do a once a month afternoon tea on a Wednesday, cost £5 per head. If any of you may be interested in attending please let me know at chair@chu3a.org.uk .

Neil Rackham

Audio/Visual

John Broadbent and Roger Law would like some help with the sound and projection systems at the monthly meetings.

They need two more people to join the team to cover for holidays or other absences. Training will be given and we have a full set of instructions.

If you think you would be able to help, please have a word with John or Roger.

Events

Technology Group trip to Sharston Recycling Tuesday 24th May.

We have one spare place on the Tech Group's trip to Sharston Recycling Centre, Longley Lane on Tuesday, 14th May. If you would like to go, please contact Linda Vann

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 a 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 3 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.

2nd Wednesday Strollers (First Stroll of 2024)

We will meet at Swann Lane URC at 10.45 a.m. for 11.00 a.m. on 8th May 2024.

We will drive to the Ladybrook, Fir Road, Bramhall, where we will park.

There will be a Short Stroll on the flat in "Happy Valley" and a coffee break at the Ladybrook.

An optional addition will be a further Stroll, on the flat, along the river in Bramhall Park.

Finally: There will be an Optional Lunch at the Ladybrook.

Group Leader: Walter Fitzpatrick.

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 22nd May at 2.00p.m. at Cheadle Library. There is free parking at the library. We will play **Rummikub**.

For those who wish to join us early, we will first meet at the Micker Brook Stonehouse Pizza and Carvery, Councillor Lane, Cheadle Hulme SK8 5NU at 12.15 p.m. for a pub lunch. There is no need to book.

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

Organiser: Philippa FitzPatrick.

Tuesday Evening Diners

Join us on **Tuesday May 14th at 6.00pm at The Aviator in Woodford.**

Contact Hilary Lightfoot

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 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

For its May meeting, the Group is **visiting Bramall Hall on Thursday 16th May** meeting at 11.00am.

That brings to an end the 2023/24 season.

We will reconvene in September.

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 is on Monday 20th May at 2pm and the programme is "Programme Music"

Programme music, common in the Romantic period of music is a way for composers to represent non-musical themes, stories and scenes.

The meeting will be hosted by Terry Bridal, 70 Blenheim Rd. Cheadle Hulme, SK8 7BA,

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: Philippa FitzPatrick .

Third Thursday Evening Diners

Our next meal is at the Aviator, Woodford, SK7 1SA (almost opposite Notcutts Woodford Garden Centre).

Time: 6.15 p.m.

Date: Thursday 16th May

Organiser: Chris Read.

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

At Home Quiz Group

The group meets **weekly** on Zoom on **Thursday mornings at 11 a.m.**

Any new member is always made welcome. We hope to see some new members over the coming weeks.

If you wish to join in, please contact the quizmaster and group leader, Neil Rackham for details.

Local Theatre Group

An Ideal Husband by Oscar Wilde.

This is the last play in **CHADS** current season. We will be attending the matinee performance on **Saturday May 18th at 2.30pm.** Tickets £12.

Contact: Hilary Lightfoot

Technology for Everyone - The Appliance of Science

Our meetings at Heald Green Village Hall have now finished for the current season.

We will reconvene in October.

Scrabble Group

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

For details contact Maureen Rackham .

THE DEADLINE FOR THE JULY 2024 NEWSHEET IS FRIDAY 28th JUNE.

Looking Back

Technology for Everyone Group, report on 'Hydrogen as a Fuel Source'.

This group meeting started with a fire alarm evacuation practice as we are obliged to carry one out each year so that members know what to do in the event of a real fire.

On retaking our seats 24 members were treated to a talk by Dr Yagya Regmi of the Manchester Fuel Cell Innovation Centre at the Metropolitan University on "Hydrogen as a potential fuel source". Can Hydrogen deliver green energy without CO₂? Yes it can, by electrolysing water into O and H₂, but this requires expensive platinum and/or iridium catalysts, which unfortunately are easily susceptible to poisoning by impurities within the water. This can be partially overcome by using high pressures and larger coated polymeric ceramic membrane electrodes, but this is still expensive. The researchers are optimistic that it will get cheaper but so far there is still a way to go before this fuel source will seriously compete with wind, solar and nuclear energy sources.

Report by Roger Perry

Electricity Generation and Storage.

26 members, and guests from the U3A North East Cheshire Network listened to a talk by Royce Lewis (also of Poynton U3A) on "Electricity Generation, Storage and Usage". Royce started off by describing the 4 main sources of our electrical supply. These are burning fossil fuels (coal, gas,), renewable natural supplies (wind, tidal & solar), nuclear energy, and interconnection from overseas suppliers, usually using subsea cables. He quoted the study of the winter supply of 2022/23 when the demand for energy was relatively high and fluctuated considerably throughout the days and nights. Using smart meters, energy companies took readings every 30mins and so could see where and when energy was being used. Customers were also asked to lower thermostats and switch off any unnecessary equipment as well. Heating and external temperature also greatly influence demand but overall customers efforts only reduced demand by little under 30%.

So what is the state of play at present for our energy needs

We have ample wind in the UK so we should build more Windmill Farms either on land or at sea, but continuous generation is not guaranteed.

We should increase the number of solar panels in use but the National Grid is unable at present to take the excess power required.

Gas fired heating is down a little but is still excessive.

Nuclear power stations are expensive to build and generate hazardous waste. Smaller stations may be easier to build and maintain.

Biomass stations such as Drax using compressed wood pellets from abroad are expensive.

Climate change with drier winters and hotter wet summers greatly influences our energy demands.

Tidal power sounds interesting but is expensive to build.

Battery development and storage is gaining in popularity.

Natural gas storage is being considered.

The use of an interconnector cable from Morocco (lots of sun and wind) to the UK has recently been proposed to supplement our existing supplies but development is in its very early stages.

Report by Roger Perry