



## Monthly Meetings

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

Thursday November 7th    **Margaret Brade: CEO Age UK, Stockport - How to Live longer.**

Thursday December 5th    **Christmas Party.**  
Tickets £10 each from Sarah Pugh.

Thursday January 2nd    **Caroline England - My journey From Lawyer to the Duchess of Dark Domestic Noir.**

## Chairman's Statement

The clocks have been put back for another year and it will soon be the festive season, but before then we have a couple of months of interest groups activities for you all.

As was the case last year we require your help in filling positions on the Committee. We are looking for at least four of our members to volunteer to either help or fill positions on the committee, so that going forward next year we will have a working committee.

As you are aware and I explained at the July meeting when we adopted the new constitution that all positions of the committee have to be re-elected each year, so we will be sending out nomination forms in the near future for you to select the members of next years committee. If a vote is required for any position then this will be carried out at the AGM in February 2025.

I am pleased to report that we have now been accepted by the Charities Commission and are now a registered charity—number 1210526. Although my wife says I've been a charity case for a long time.

For details on all our activities please go to our new-look website to view the details of an and all group activities.

On a different note we will be contacting you all soon for your membership renewal fee for 2025. We would appreciate it if these could be settled in a timely manner as the new constitution gives a time limit for renewal as no later than the end of February.

So please enjoy our offering for the remainder of this autumn and into the New Year. If there is something you would like to see which we are currently not covering please contact me about it.

Neil Rackham.

## **Christmas Party - 5th December**

Christmas High Tea served at table in the Small Hall, at the Ladybridge Park Club, with a tombola and a quiz.

Admission by ticket only

Tickets available from Sarah Pugh at £10 per person

**Note: Last date for booking is 15th November**



## **Groups**

### **Weekly Zoom Quiz**

We have had a forced three month break in our quizzing due to Neil having minimal internet service. This is now resolved and the weekly quizzes will resume on Zoom on Thursday 6th September.

If anyone is interested in joining our merry group please contact Neil Rackham.

### **French Conversation**

We are a small group who meet on the First Monday of the month and use a variety of sources to brush up our French.

If you have a basic knowledge of the language and wish to refresh your skills do come and join us.

Contact Group Leader: Julia Ball

### **German Group**

This group meets at the Quaker Meeting House, Cheadle Hulme on the third 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 and either wish to brush up their skills or learn wider vocabulary.

To join, please contact the group leader: Susan Brayzier

### **Italian Group**

The group aims to meet on alternate Friday afternoons in members' houses.

We have just finished an A level grammar course and after reading a number of abridged stories are now embarking on an original work. We would welcome one or two new members but the group is not suitable for a beginner or those with only a basic knowledge of the language.

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

## **Spanish Group**

The Spanish group meets at 2 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

Our aim is to have fun whilst improving our Spanish in a variety of ways. Do contact Hilary Lightfoot if you wish to join.

Group Leader: Hilary Lightfoot

## **Book Group 1**

We meet in members' houses on the first Tuesday of the month starting at 10.15 a.m. Meetings start with tea or coffee provided by the host..

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

New members welcome.

For details of the next meeting, contact the Organiser: Pat Vermes

## **Book Group 2**

This Group meets on the third Thursday of the month, 10-12 noon at Ladybridge Connect, Cheadle Hulme.

A room charge of £3 will apply.

We aim to encourage members to spread the word about books they personally have enjoyed. Please contact the Group Leader to find out more.

Group Leader: Steve Normansell

## **Poetry Discussion Group**

The Poetry Discussion Group meets on the second Friday of each month in members' homes at 2 p.m. The group would welcome some fresh faces.

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

## **2nd Wednesday Strollers**

For details of the next walk, please contact the Group Leader.

Group Leader: Walter Fitzpatrick

## **Bridge Group**

The Group meets at members' homes on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

More Bridge players would be welcome. You do not need to find a partner in order to come and join this small sociable group.

For more details contact Group Leader, Judi Cooke

## **Canasta Group**

Our group for all you canasta players is meeting on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 2pm at the John Millington.

If you have not played before but would like to try, please come and join us.

Anyone who might be interested in joining is welcome to attend on the day or contact the group leader: Judi Cooke

## **Art Appreciation Group**

We are a group looking at all aspects of art and architecture – from the earliest cave paintings and drawings to the cutting edge of modern art.

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

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 21st November when Rachel Smith will tell us about her interest in Victorian Ceramics.**

Cost: £3.00 per meeting

Contacts: John Broadbent & Sarah Pugh

## **Practical Art Group**

The Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month from 2-4 pm at the Scout Base camp, Oak Road, Cheadle Hulme.

The next meetings will be: **11th and 25th November.**

Those with prior experience are welcome to join, but the class is not currently suitable for total beginners due to the unavailability of the tutor.

For more details, or to register your interest, please contact the

New Group Leader: Alison Hunt

## **Photography**

The club welcomes individuals of all abilities and meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. at Ladybridge Park Club, Cheadle Hulme.

Tea and Coffee £2.20

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.

Contact: Neil Rackham

## French “pot pourri” Group

We are a small group meeting in a member's home close to Cheadle Hulme Village on the first Monday of the Month 10:30 am-12:00 pm

We try to improve our knowledge of French and also French culture.

We would welcome one or two new members.

Only a very basic knowledge of the language is necessary and there is no pressure to do anything but enjoy the experience and good company.

Contact: Hilary Lightfoot

## Computer Group

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

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.

Tea & Coffee £2.20

Group contact: Neil Rackham

## Mac Group

Own a Mac, or getting one? Then this Group is for you!

The aim of the group is to help each member get the best from their investment in Apple products.

The Group meets at Ladybridge Park Club,

Cheadle Hulme on the second Monday of the month at 10 a.m. until 12 noon.

For more information contact Barry Richards

## Monday Lunch Club

The Group meets at 12.15 for 12.30pm on the Monday following the Monthly Meeting at The Governors House, Cheadle Hulme.

Please inform the group leader by phone on 439 7245 if intending to come and leave a message. We now have to inform the Governors Pub by Friday beforehand of numbers attending.

Group Leader: Philippa FitzPatrick

## Board Games Group

We meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month, 2-4 p.m. at Cheadle Library Rear Room Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November when we will play Triominos.**

Group Leader: Philippa FitzPatrick

## Technology for Everyone - The Appliance of Science

This Group is for those who wish to increase their awareness and knowledge across a wide spectrum of scientific and technological subjects, many of which affect our daily lives.

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at Heald Green Village Hall.

Our next meetings are:

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November** when one of our members, **Peter Cadman**, will give a talk about the **Moon**. How much do you know about our closest celestial neighbour, its history, uses, and future, with a few surprises too.....

**Tuesday 3rd December** when **Steven Normansell (CHu3a)** will talk about the **Stockport Water Supply**.

Cost: £3.00 per meeting

Group Leader: Roger Law

## Music Appreciation Group

The group meets on the third Monday of the month. The next meeting will be on Monday 18th November.

Group Leader Terry Bridal

## 3rd Thursday Evening Diners

For details of the next meal, please contact the Group Leader.

Group Leader Walter FitzPatrick



The Thursday Evening Dining Group pictured at Tang's Restaurant. In clockwise order: George Rogers, Margaret Rogers, Jayne Fletcher, Chris Fletcher, Brian Durrant, Chris Read, Gillian Rowe, Terry Bridal, Philippa FitzPatrick and Walter FitzPatrick



## Audio Visual Team – urgent need

We have an immediate need for more people on the AV team to help with this essential role at monthly meetings. Our team of two is not sufficient to ensure that we always have someone to set up and run the AV.

Can you help?

Training will be given.

Contact John Broadbent or Roger Law

## Looking Back

Technology For Everyone Group. Visit to Re-Cycling Plant.

This month, 15 members went to the Longley Lane recycling centre at Sharston GM to see how our domestic waste is treated, mechanically/electrically/pneumatically sorted and processed to create revenue wherever possible. Waste is brought from all the Manchester boroughs except Wigan who have their own disposal procedures. The sorted waste is then sold off to generate revenue for GMC.

Initially we had a short talk by Alison Fare Education officer for R4GM on what we should put into the 4 domestic bins given to each household in Stockport MB.

Green waste containing food waste as well as gardening waste is composted down to provide sellable fine compost.

Blue bin waste is for paper recycling involving chemical treatment to produce paper pulp which is dried off to produce course brown paper.

Brown bin waste is primarily for bottles, tins, and aluminium cans; and involves various technological procedures to separate the metals from the plastic and glass bottles.

Black bin waste goes to the incinerator where the heat is used to generate electricity. The exhaust gases are treated by various technologies to prevent pollution of the atmosphere. Only the ash goes to land fill.

After an exercise to test our ability to put our waste into the correct bins, we were kitted up with safety glasses, hard hats, gloves, and hi-viz jackets to tour the bottle/tin/aluminium can processing plant which is often quite noisy, smelly and dusty. Various conveyors move the waste around to pass various magnets, blowers and electronic devices and lasers to separate the metals from the plastic and glass bottles. In practice some items lose their way in the process due to being 'shielded' by other items, so human spotters are still used to weed out the small number of incorrectly sorted items.

Our overall impression of this large site was that we do not fully appreciate the work they do in sorting our waste to avoid polluting our planet and that the waste is used to generate cash wherever possible. Also, repairable items can be rendered usable again and sold to avoid someone having to buy a new item whilst helping to reduce our waste disposal costs.

Roger Perry

24 members and guests listened to a talk by Prof Michael Fisher of the University of Manchester on AI (artificial intelligence), Autonomy and Robots. Michael started off by describing the two main classes of AI: a) search the internet and then decide what to do and b) do a) and learn by example. The latter normally requires a degree of intelligence although bias and pose can become important. This raises ethical and legal issues as the outcome can be very important and costly. You must learn to trust the decisions made. Several examples were shown about these matters and audience participation questioned them.

Chat-GPT, now all the rage, in which AI interacts with the users in a conversational way. The dialogue format makes it possible to answer follow-up questions, admit mistakes, challenge incorrect statements and reject inappropriate requests. Most of the results are surprisingly plausible - but might be wrong! These models use very large language systems which often put a strain on their environmental sustainability. They can use a lot of energy, cooling water and rare metals. Michael felt that these systems had probably got as large as they are likely to get and in future may well be smaller. The audience raised the question of driverless cars but it was felt this scenario was still some way off as trust had to be gained especially, e.g., when should the driver/passenger take over if matters appear to be getting out of hand?

Michael stated that not all AI images /text or arguments can be trusted but AI is neither evil nor magical but it should be used with caution for the benefit of all. Wait and see what transpires!

Roger Perry.

1. In case you ever need help, and in case you didn't know about this facility.

If you are unfortunate enough to need to make a 999 call in secret -if you hear an intruder for example - you can dial the usual 999 number then follow on with 55 which tells the call handler that you can't speak. You will be connected to the Police without further dialogue. The Police call handler will ask exploratory questions to which you can respond by tapping the phone as instructed, without alerting anyone in the vicinity.

By this means you can get the help you need without advertising your presence.

2. We need help.

Historically the 'Technology for Everyone' Group had contacts at the local Universities to assist us with finding speakers. Unfortunately that is no longer the case, so, If any member has such a University contact, be that by profession, neighbour, friendship, or family, would you please let Roger Law know, as that would be a great help to him and the Group.