

IN TOUCH

U3A In “Strictly” Mood!

Report by Barry Barnett



Hazel

Ninety members of our U3A enjoyed recently a first-class Saturday Night Dance. The evening was led by Roy and Hazel who provided a varied and challenging series of dances from their extensive collection. Many aficionados of sequence dancing had their favourites – the Mayfair Quickstep, the Saunter, the Emmerdale Waltz and more while those more used to straight ballroom



dancing were equally able to enjoy the usual mix of waltz, foxtrot, quickstep and the like.

The Barn Dance, St Bernard's Waltz and Rock 'n Roll were also on offer to satisfy all tastes.

An excellent buffet provided by 'Val's Catering' enjoyed along with a free raffle based on entry tickets. The evening was a resounding success! A big thank you to Alan Lewis, who organized the event assisted by his wife, Barbara, and other members of the U3A Committee.



INCLUDED WITH “IN TOUCH” ARE 2 IMPORTANT FORMS!

The Membership Renewal form must be completed by every member individually if we are to be able to claim Gift Aid.

It now includes a Gift Aid Declaration. As a charity Cheadle U3A are can claim back the tax you have paid on your annual subscription under the Government Gift Aid scheme. **There is no cost to you.** Please sign the Gift Aid declaration **only if you are a UK taxpayer.** This will enable us to claim an extra 25p for each £1.00 of your subscription. **This year each member must complete a membership renewal form** (i.e. joint husband and wife forms are no longer acceptable.)

Please return forms to the Membership Secretary at the address on the renewal form.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE STANDING ORDER FORM TURN TO PAGE 16.

Executive Committee

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In this, my first Column as Chairman, I would like to thank my predecessor, Sarah Williams, for all the hard work she put in during her time in office.



However, I know we have not lost her talents and willingness to work for Cheadle U3A. A leading example of this is that Sarah will continue to compile the monthly e-news. I have worked with Sarah to establish what I hope will be a regular monthly column in the *Cheadle and Tean Times (the Stunner)* and in that way I hope that our communications with all members will improve. This will feature recent events (such



Sarah's Presentation at the AGM

as the Dance organized by Alan Lewis on 22 October) but will also be a means of advertising future events. Sarah will receive all your group news and other items for e-news and will write this column for the newspaper in the future.

The web site has undergone a major overhaul, thanks to Walter Jaggli. Many people have suggested both major and minor alterations and improvements to the site and 'Walt' has responded swiftly and efficiently to achieve a web site of which we can all be proud. The Business Secretary (Ann Mundy) and I are trying to put items on here from the work of your Committee. Minutes of past meetings will be posted here plus documents which will give everyone a further insight into the work that your Committee is engaged in to 'run the business.' Do click on and see for yourself at **www.theadleu3a.org**

At present a Committee working party (led by Richard Moore) is busy revising the advice offered to Group Leaders. A Handbook which will assist all Group Leaders in their most vital task will be finally approved in the Spring (7 March) at the Group Leaders annual Meeting and Lunch.



Introducing Ann Mundy, Our New Business Secretary

I'm a relatively new member of Cheadle U3A so I thought I would use this, my first article for "In Touch", as an opportunity to introduce myself to you as your new Business Secretary. A child of the 50s I was born in Halifax in the West Riding of Yorkshire and was brought up in Batley. I studied biochemistry at Liverpool University in the 70s and joined Bass (now MolsonCoors) in 1980 where I worked very happily for 30 years, assuring the quality of the beer and producing and rearing two daughters in my spare time. My girls, achieving 34 years of marriage and being elected as a Fellow to the Institute and Guild of Brewers are my proudest life achievements. I'm also proud to have been a member of Girl Guiding for the past 13 years, running a Brownie and a Rainbow unit and am currently, the local District Commissioner.

In June 2010 I decided to hang up my test tubes and take early retirement. I didn't miss work but I missed my friends and colleagues. A friend told me about the U3A, so in August 2010, out of curiosity, I logged onto the Cheadle web site activities list. I love playing music and holidays in France in our caravan, so the "Sweet Melody Dream Boat band" and Intermediate French looked very interesting. I'm so glad I made those 2 phone calls to Chris and Margaret. Not only did I find activities that I now thoroughly enjoy but I also met loads of new, delightful and interesting people. A whole new, stimulating, exciting and fun world suddenly opened up for me. I discovered the "Third Age"! I'm now a member of five groups. What a wonderful organisation the U3A is and thank heavens for all our fantastic group leaders who give their time, energy and skills. When I saw Barry's plea in the November "In Touch" for new committee members I felt compelled to volunteer, I wanted to offer my services in return for all the pleasure I was getting. I never thought that, in less than 6 months, I'd be in the role of Business Secretary, but I'm delighted and proud to be able to serve and will do my very best to serve you well.

(Continued from page 2)

Our booklet entitled 'Guidelines for Members' is next on the list for revision and it is hoped to have this ready for issue to all members early next year.

Provided everyone responds we shall have many membership renewals in early January done by **Standing Order**. This, coupled with a **Gift Aid** pledge from as many of you who can, will increase our income and an efficient collection of nearly 1000 renewal subscriptions. Thanks to John Owen, Ann Mundy and Chris Mawdsley for all the time and effort they have put in on this. It remains for everyone now to reward this effort by filling in the relevant forms as requested.

In conclusion I would like to add a personal note. Right now, after some 7 months in post I am thoroughly enjoying the job. This is mostly because I feel surrounded by 10 hard-working, loyal colleagues who are serving you all. The one anxiety is the absence of a queue of members wanting to take our places. We continue to ask, urge, beg, cajole any member who feels called to serve our organization to talk to a member of the Committee. The work is often fun as well as giving one a feeling that, just for a while, one is serving a movement in which we all believe we all benefit.

Barry Barnett

MORE JOIN THE 21ST CENTURY TO MAKE A SUCCESSFUL 1st YEAR FOR IT SUITE !

Back in April I was talking about the acquisition of the Computer Suite based at the Guildhall and I expressed confidence at the prospect of it continuing to flourish and grow. Well I am pleased to say that confidence was not misplaced and we have now virtually filled up the week with computer related opportunities ranging from the complete beginner through to the more challenging aspects of digital photography etc. This does not happen on its own of course and I would pay tribute to Phil Boyer, Peter Lamb, Barry Bevington and latterly Geoff and Heather Howard (page 5) and Lynn Smith who joined the team this year and are helping beginners and beginners plus. Backing up this team with his Website Wizardry is Walter Jaggli who we are also glad to have on board.

CHRIS IS BACK WITH MORE MUSIC FOLKS!

Chris Washington is once again at the helm of another music group which began in September at Draycott Church Hall, Draycott. This time the theme is Folk Music and it already thrives with some 8/10 members. If this is what you've been waiting for contact Chris on: 01538 751848.

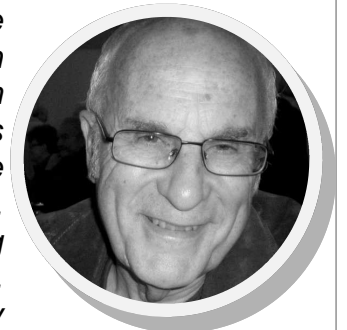
DOREEN LEAVES THE TAP RUNNING !

After five years of leading the Tap Dancing Group Doreen Ball has retired to concentrate on family commitments. The group made a presentation to Doreen (see page 5). Thanks Doreen for your sterling efforts over the past 5 years and also to Joyce Plant for taking on the leadership and keeping the group going.



BILL LOCKER Another retirement from Group Leadership is Bill Locker (pictured) who will be taking a well earned rest from January 2012. Bill has been at the forefront of the Cheadle U3A Walking and Rambling programme for the last 12 years and justifiably feels that he has earned a rest. The Rambling group averages about 30 people each week and so Bill and I hope that somebody will take on the role. Perhaps the work could be shared between several people. Either way we need to keep this valuable and popular pastime "up and walking". Anyone interested in helping please contact either Bill or myself.

Our current Activity list is providing an amazing range of opportunities, Computers to Cake Icing, Walking to Waltzing, from Music to Maths, from Pub Strolls to..... Positive Psychology! **Clive Barcham** (pictured) who has recently joined U3A is offering to start a **Positive Psychology** group in the New Year. He says: *"What makes people happy? How can we improve our general well-being? These are the kinds of questions asked by Positive Psychologists whose answers in the last 10 years have created a whole new branch of psychology. I am seeking to set up a small study group of interested individuals who'd like to explore these issues and try out some of the techniques and interventions the new movement has generated. This will require regular group-work and some written record-keeping or diary entry between sessions to support practice. The group would not be 'therapeutic' in a clinical sense. It would simply be a meeting of individuals keen to explore wellbeing for its own sake and not as a "cure" for depression or other mental ailments. Neither would it be anchored to any particular spiritual movement or set of ideas, but be centred around evidence-based experimental psychology. In addition, I would like to explore new ideas for developing "brain fitness", creativity and memory skills as I believe these marry nicely with well-being."*



Enjoy your winter term!

Richard Moore

Doreen Bows Out



Cheadle U3A Tap Class bade farewell to their group leader of five years at a recent presentation. Mrs Doreen Ball reluctantly gave up leadership owing to health reasons and family commitments. After the sudden death of former leader Judith Thorley, when she took it over with the support of members, the 'Tappers' have gone from strength to strength perfecting their routines. The class now has twenty members, and many began tapping in their sixties. Mrs Joyce Plant, who has now taken over as group leader, paid tribute to Doreen: "It wasn't a decision Doreen took easily but this last year hasn't been easy for her.

We all appreciated she couldn't join in the dancing but valued her expertise and choreography with routines." Joyce added: "Doreen has taught us enough to be going on with and I have taken the temporary leadership with the help of Margaret McGarry who has far more dancing experience than myself."

If anyone with tap dancing teaching experience feels they would like to donate an hour of their time each week we would welcome their help. The 'Tappers' have now moved to their new venue at the Great Wood Village Hall in Hollington Road, Tean (also the new Village Hall location). They meet at 2.30pm on Fridays.

Joyce Plant can be contacted on 01538 722430 or via the Cheadle U3A website.



More Computer Beginners!

Following a plea for more leaders to help we were thrilled when Heather & Geoff Howard came forward. They have taught adult beginners before down in the West Country. In August I went along to see them in action in the

Guildhall suite and found some keen and enthusiastic students. The Absolute Beginners Computing and Beginners Top-up classes are **full next term** in the New Year. There are waiting lists for classes after Easter so if you are interested get in touch ASAP! (Tel: 01538 750139)

Anyone of good basic IT skills willing to take Beginners, contact Richard or the Editor (page2)



STAFFORD PUTS CHEADLE TO SHAME ON 'Tour of Hoar Cross'

Only three of the Cheadle U3A cycle group could turn up for the September bike ride, an 18 mile route along quiet country lanes around Hoar Cross. However the Stafford Cycle group sent a group of four to augment our numbers. Not only did they cycle over from Stafford to meet us but then proceeded to skim round our ride, take a substantial lunch at the Meynell Arms at Hoar Cross and then cycled back to Stafford!!

We all spent time looking around the magnificent Hoar Cross Church and our lunchbreak at Brankley Nature Reserve.

Our October ride will be a 19 mile in the delightful countryside around Church Leigh.

We would welcome new members. Anyone with a bike of any age and a sense of adventure. Our rides are often off road e.g Tissington Trail or on quiet roads. We are not too proud to push up the few hills.

Joan Charles Tel: 01538 753545



JOAN SAYS WHAT U3A MEANS TO US!

In response to a national U3A survey, Joan Barrow's response was published in U3A News autumn edition



Joan Barrow of Cheadle U3A wrote:

In 1997 I worked part time and retirement loomed. How was I going to fill my days and seek out companionship? It is now 2011. I have tackled water colour painting, the basics of bridge, the joy of parchment craft, the miracles of geology, the wonders of the stars and planets, exercised by swimming, cycling, walking and country dancing, completed my family history, produced slide shows with PhotoMedia, identified birds with the "twitchers", travelled all over the world with travel and landscape and also enjoyed many lovely holidays, and made many lovely friends along the way.

Joan is a well-known U3A member, has served on the committee for six years, and is currently leader of the 'Writing for Pleasure' group. Joan's varied interests are reflected in her writings:

A Magical Place

Walking up the winding, twisting road, climbing higher and higher, I pass whitewashed cottages that have gardens filled with scented flowers of dazzling colours. I turn to look back at the magnificent view of the bay with the multi-coloured frontages of the hotels in pink, blue, yellow and green. The tram chugs along beside me but soon passes, leaving me to carry on my journey alone. I watch as it follows the tram lines as they snake along in the centre of the road.

I reach the dizzy heights and follow the path to the high point. What a spectacular sight, the sea glistening all around me, a beautiful blue reflecting from the sky. I look down at St. Tudno's, the smallest church in Wales, which has stood for many years. The white marble headstones standing proud in the small churchyard.

Marvelling at the scenery around me, I wonder, what treasures are still hidden here? How much is still undiscovered? It has a copper mine which dates back to the Bronze age, 4000 years ago, and has five miles of tunnels and passageways.

The area is rich in limestone creating a garden for Cranebill, Thrift, Sea Campion, which cling to the rock face. Pyramid orchids, Rock rose, and wild Thyme grown on the grasses.

Seabirds in abundance swoop and dive into the sea. Guillemots, Kittiwakes, Razorbills. It is also home to Ravens, Little Owls, Peregrine falcons and colonies of rare Horseshoe bats make their home in the large caves, and many varieties of sheep which graze on parts of the land.

I never tire of visiting this magical place which has inspired artists and poets over many years.

Where am I? On the Great Orme in Llandudno, North Wales.

Soon it is time to make my way back, until my next visit, which I hope will not be too far away.

I was approached by our Chairman, Barry Barnett, in April and asked if the Writing group would like to showcase some of their writing in the form of a book. The group agreed and all the members chose two pieces of writing each. Joan and Barry printed and collated 50 books containing various themes: Childhood Memories, Ancestors, Descriptive writing, Holidays etc. **"Scribbles by the Scribes"** went on sale at the April Coffee morning and all fifty books were sold by 11-45am. The sum of £50.00 was forwarded to the Donna Louise Children's Hospice. The Writing for Pleasure group are hoping to produce a another edition . (Joan Barrow)

PUGIN - The Man and Cheadle

David Slade writes: 2012 will soon be upon us and it happens to be 200 years since the architect Pugin was born. Why is Pugin important and why should we be interested in the man?

Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin, in a very short lifetime, had an enormous influence on the architecture and thinking of his time, and a lasting influence on architects who followed, up to the present time. He became so important that in a difference of opinion he had with the catholic hierarchy of England, he went to the Pope for a resolution.

His architectural skill was considered to be so knowledgeable on Gothic architecture that he was employed by Sir Charles Barry, to prepare all the gothic details within and without the new Houses of Parliament, arguably the most important piece of architecture in England in the nineteenth century. Pugin's design input extended to the external appearance, the clock tower with Big Ben, the furniture, wallpaper, floor tiling, the Commons and House of Lords chambers, the royal throne, the cutlery; everything that required design input.

Pugin became the leader of the Gothic Revival Movement due to his knowledge and skill in Gothic detailing, but also because he was a medievalist to the core, and people were enthused by his charismatic energy and charm. He could sketch a medieval detail in seconds in meetings, or while sailing his boat back from France, from his stored knowledge obtained from numerous visits to medieval buildings in England and Europe. He was adopted by the premier Earl of England, the Earl of Shrewsbury, as his architectural advisor and friend. The Earl was a Catholic Revivalist who needed Pugin to advise on the building of Catholic churches, houses, schools, hospitals and rest homes for priests, during the period when Catholicism had been made legal again in England.



Why should we care?



In Cheadle we have the finest church designed by Pugin, a beautiful amalgamation of the most beautiful Gothic detailing accumulated by Pugin in his mind. We also have a school, convent and manse in the town, and in the immediate area we have further churches, a hospital complex, several houses, a priests rest home and alterations to Alton Towers, the home of the Earl of Shrewsbury. St Giles, by the way, was built by men employed by the Earl on his estate and supervised by his own Clerk of Works, from stone quarried just outside Cheadle. If I have justified the importance of the man in his period, we now have the opportunity to celebrate his birth year. Throughout the year there will be talks on Pugin,

concerts in the church, talks and exhibitions in the Pugin Centre, tours of local Pugin buildings, and guided tours of St Giles, Pugin's gem. Local schools and organisations will be taking part in the celebrations, with the opportunity to exhibit their work in the Pugin Centre.

I would therefore encourage our members to contribute to the celebrations, representing the senior and largest organisation in the town. Could we put on an art show, a photographic exhibition, a mini concert, prepare medieval calligraphy manuscripts, produce creative writings, carry out research into local families who built the church, make a model of the church?

Let us be creative in projects associated, either with Pugin or medievalism in general; with the bonus of being able to exhibit the work in the Pugin Centre in the High St.

By the time you read this, I will have covered part of the nineteenth century within the History of Architecture Group, but if you would like to come along to hear about the influence that Pugin had on architects who followed and adopted his principles, such as Morris and The Arts and Crafts Movement, you are very welcome. *(The group meets 3rd Wednesdays at 10 am.)*

David Slade MA (History of Architecture Group Leader)

CHEADLE U3A 2011-12 ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME

Rambling Group	Mon. 9.30 - finish	Harborne Rd Car Park	Bill Locker	01538 752467
Short Walks	Mon. 10.00 - finish	Harborne Rd Car Park	Ken Mainey	01538 702556
Computers Absolute Beginners	Mon. 9.30 - 11.30	Guild Hall Computer Suite.	Geoff & Heather Howard	01538 750139
Tai Chi (Beginners) **	Mon. 10.00 - 11.30	Guild Hall, Cheadle (Main Hall)	Grace Hughes	01538 755128
German	Mon. 10.15 - 11.45	Moorlands College, Cheadle G14	Irmgard Freeston	-----
Ribbon/Embroidery	2 nd Mon.mth. 10.30 – 12.30	Guild Hall (Oakley room)	Margo Colgate	01538 751747
Further/ Beginners PhotoMedia	Mon. 2.00 - 4.00	Guild Hall Computer Suite.	Phil Boyer	01538 723322
Beginners Badminton	Tue. 9.00 -10.00	Cheadle Leisure Centre	June Jackson*, Pat Oakley	*01538 752149
Badminton	Tue. 10.00 - 12.00	Cheadle Leisure Centre	Margaret Prince	01538 753979
Bowling	Tue. 9.00 - 11.00 Tue. 11.00 - 1.00	Cheadle Leisure Centre	Michael Prince Dawn Maley	01538 753979 01538 753578
Computers (Pot Pourree 1)	Tue. 9.15 – 11-15	Guild Hall Computer Suite	Peter Lamb	01538 722912
Computers (Pot Pourree 2)	Tue. 11-30 – 1-30	Guild Hall Computer Suite	Peter Lamb	01538 722912
Computers Top-Up	Tue. 2.00 – 3-30	Guild Hall Computer Suite	Geoff & Heather Howard	01538 750139
Calligraphy	Tue. 10.15 - 12.00	Moorlands College, Cheadle G14	Barry Bevington	01782 550604
Country Dancing	Tue. 10.00 -12.00	Dilhorne Village Hall	Jean/Cedric Wilkinson	01782 394605
Verse or Worse (Poetry)	4 th Tue. mth 11.30 - 1.00	Guild Hall, Cheadle (Oakley Room)	Alan/Barbara Lewis	01538 754208
Yoga	Tue. 12.15 -1.30	Guild Hall, Cheadle	Chris Hartley	-----
Card Craft	Tue. 1.30 - 3.00, fortnightly	Cheadle Cricket Club	Stella Heritage	01538 702124
Crafts + Indoor games	Tue. 1.30 - 3.00	Cheadle Cricket Club	Brenda Oxley & Margaret Joyce	01538 750553
Gardening	Tue. monthly 1.30 - 3.00	Cheadle Cricket Club	Doreen Tildesley & Sue Fraser	01782 550020
Folk Music Group	1st,2nd,3rd Tue 2.00 - 3.30	Draycott, St Margaret's Church Hall	Chris Washington	01538 751848
Chess	Tue. 3-30 -5-00	Guildhall Computer Suite	Mike Griffin	01538 702366
Creative Photography 1	Tue. 3.30 - 5.00	Moorlands College, Cheadle G14	Ruth Mellor	01538 754254
Bird Watching	Various (contact leader)	Various (contact leader)	Sue Fraser	01782 302056
Ballroom Dancing	2nd,3rd,4th Tue 8 - 10pm	Guild Hall, Cheadle (Main Hall)	Liz Harris	01538 756077
Coffee Morning	2 nd Wed. mth, 10.00 -12.00	Guild Hall, Cheadle - all members	Dawn Maley	01538 753578
Family History Research	1 st . Wed. mth, 9.30 -11.00	Guildhall Computer Suite	Andrew Bull	01538 754361
Architecture	3rd.Wed. mth.10.00 -11.30	Guild Hall, Cheadle (Main Hall)	David Slade	01538 702004
Geology	4th Wed. mth. 10 -11.30	Moorlands College, Cheadle G14	Andy Lingham	01538 702180
Watercolours	Wed. 10.00 - 12.00	Cheadle Cricket Club	Ken Bradshaw	01782 393979
Silk Craft	Wed. 10.30 - 12.30	Guild Hall, Cheadle (Oakley Room)	Margo Colgate	01538 751747
Modelling/Model Making	1 st & 3 rd Weds. 10.30 -12.00	Cheadle Fire Str. Comm. Room.	Allan Webster	01538 752071
Pub Strolls	Wed. monthly - see programme.	Harborne Rd Car Park	Ron Cooper	01538 754200
Pilates	Wed. 11.30 - 1.00	Cheadle Leisure Centre	Contact Vicki Squires	01538 753331

Group Activity	Day/Time	Location	Group Leader	Tel. No.
Parchment Craft	Wed. 12.30 - 2.30	Guild Hall, Cheadle	Chris Heath	01538 753961
Computer Basics	Wed 1.30 -3.00	Guild Hall (PC Suite)	Lynn Smith	01538 756314
French - Intermediate	Wed 2.00 - 3.15	Moorlands College, Cheadle G13/G14	Margaret Vaughan	01889 568328
French - Absolute Beginners	Wed. 3-30 - 5.00	Guild Hall (PC Suite)	Alan Lewis	01538 754208
Tai Chi **	Thur. 10.00 -11.30	Cheadle Cricket Club	Grace Hughes	01538 755128
Painting for Pleasure	Thur. 10.00 - 12.00	Cheadle Cricket Club	Ken Bradshaw	01782 393979
Reading for Pleasure	Last Thur.mth.10-00 to 12-00	Moorlands College Cheadle (G14)	Lesley Hall	01538 757133
Cr. Green Bowls (Apr.-Sept.)	Last Thur. mth 9.30 -12.30	Cresswell (Checkley Outdoor Club)	Michael Prince	01538 753979
Cycling (May - Oct.)	1 st Thur. mth 9.30	Harborne Rd Car Park	(Group Leader Required)	
Painting for Pleasure	Thur. 1.00 - 3.00	Cheadle Cricket Club	Ken Bradshaw	01782 393979
Parchment Craft	1st Thur. mth 1.15 - 3.15	Guild Hall, Cheadle	Chris Heath	01538 753961
Writing for Pleasure	Last Thur. mth. 1.15 - 2.45	Cheadle Fire Stn. Comm. Room	Joan Barrow	01889 567083
Travel and Landscape (Oct – Mar)	2 nd Thur. mth 1.30 - 3.30	Tean, Christ Church Hall	Phil Boyer	01538 723322
S Melody Dreamboat Band	Thur. 2.00 - 4.00	St. Margaret's Church Hall, Draycott	Chris Latham	01782 394894
Music and Movement	Thur. 2.00 - 3.30	Cheadle Cricket Club	Chris Jackson, Jean Shenton	-----
Maths	Thur. 2-00 - 3.30	Moorlands College, Cheadle G14	Barry Crown	01538 752989
Over 50's Exercise	Thur. 2.30 - 3.30	Cheadle Leisure Centre	Contact Vicki Squire	01538 753331
French- Beginners Plus	Fri. 9-30 – 11-30am	Moorlands College G14	Barry Barnett	01538 755796
Sugar Craft	Fri. 10.00 - 12.00	Cheadle Cricket Club	Dawn Maley	01538 753578
Art Club	Fri. 10.00 - 12.00	Guild Hall Cheadle (Oakley Room)	Vivienne Cowie	01538 266956
Computer Photography 2	Fri. 9-00 – 11-00	Guild Hall (PC Suite)	Barry Bevington	01782 550604
Computer Phot. - Beginners	Fri. 11.15 - 1.00	Guild Hall (PC Suite)	Barry Bevington	01782 550604
Barbershop Singing	Fri. 1.00 - 3.00	Blythe Bridge Methodist Ch Hall	Sarah Williams	01782 302310
Tap Dancing	Fri. 1.30 - 3.00	Tean Village Hall (ex-Greatwood School)	Doreen Ball	01782 397273
Line Dancing (beginners)	Fri. 2.00 - 4.00	Cheadle Guild Hall	Jean Fallows	01538 750560
Easy Exercise	Fri. 3.00 - 4.00	Tean Village Hall (ex-Greatwood School)	Kath Watson	01538 722537
Cinema (approx. Sept. - May)	Day/frequency variable, 2.15	Uttoxeter Cinebowl - all members	Andrew Bull	01538 754361
Stargazing	Most clear Evenings.	For further details contact	Chris Washington	01538 751848
Dining Club	1st Thurs.12.00 month	Various	Mavis Williams	01538 750481

To attend any activities, except Coffee Mornings and Cinema sessions, please contact the relevant Group Leader prior to attendance to check availability of places.

RAMBLERS

Nov 21st	Oakamoor	Ken	01538 754295
“ 28 th	Bollington	Rose/Terry	01538 752705
Dec. 5 th	Trentham	Barbara	01782 642441
“ 12 th	Chapel Chorlton	Richard E.	01782 326427
“ 19 th	Blithfield	John/Jean	01782 395683
Jan. 2 nd s	Canal Walk	Keith	01782 280578
“ 9 th	MorrIDGE	Peter Ja.	01538 753679
“ 16 th	Longnor	Phil	01538 756256
“ 23 rd	Newstead Woods / LUNCH	Margaret	01782 643263
“ 30 th	Friden	Peter R.	01538 753743

PLEASE NOTE: in bad weather conditions THE WALK LEADER WILL DECIDE IF THE WALK IS TO GO AHEAD.

GROUP LEADER: BILL LOCKER.
Tel.no. 01538 752467.

BIRD WATCHING FIELD TRIPS 2012

JANUARY 31:	DOXEY MARSHES, STAFFORD (Staffs Wildlife Trust)
FEBRUARY 28:	MARTIN MERE, LANCS (WWT)
MARCH 27:	MIDDLETON LAKE, WARWICKS (RSPB)
APRIL 17:	BEMPTON CLIFFS, N. YORKS (RSPB) (with a possibility of adding a boat trip from Bridlington, RSPB Flamborough Head & RSPB Blacktoft Sands for people who wish to stay overnight).
MAY 29:	PAXTON PITS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE
JUNE 26:	CARDING MILL VALLEY & RECTORY WOOD, nr CHURCH STRETTON
JULY 17:	LATHKILL DALE, DERBYSHIRE
SEPTEMBER 25:	POTTERIC CARR, nr DONCASTER (Yorks Wildlife Trust)
OCTOBER 23:	BLITHFIELD RESERVOIR, STAFFS (W Mids Bird Club)
NOVEMBER 27:	CONWAY, WALES (RSPB)
DECEMBER 11:	BELVIDE NATURE RESERVE (W Mids Bird Club)

Gardening Group Reflects on 2011

The gardening group ended their last meeting of the year in September when Justin Harrison, a nurseryman from Uttoxeter, came to give advice on shrubs and plants suitable for autumn. There were shrubs of all shapes and sizes, something for every garden, large and small. Justin's infectious humour kept us entertained throughout the meeting and there were plants for sale afterwards.

Another highlight of the year was our visit to Alton when Stella Heritage arranged for the group to view 3 neighbouring gardens. The weather was just perfect for a stroll around the village, viewing the gardens along with a visit to St. John's Church. We ended the afternoon in Stella's own garden and took advantage of the cream teas provide by Stella and her helpers. The afternoon was a great success. Our thanks to Stella and her neighbours for an enjoyable day.

**Gardening Programme for 2012**

February 7th	“Raising a Blue Tit Family” David Tideswell.
March&April	Spring Gardening
May	Visit to local nursery for demonstration
June&July	Visits to NGS gardens
September	Propagation

Doreen Tildesley



The **U3A trip in April** took members to the famous wartime secret decoding station at Bletchley Park which currently houses the National Museum of Computing as well. It is well-known for the decoding of the German Enigma code. In Hut 4 naval intelligence was decoded.



Over The Garden Wall!
There might be some confusion as to what these walkers were up to!



Congratulations to Beryl!

This year's Staffordshire Audio/Visual Group competition winner was Beryl Slade with 'Rhythm of the Tides'.

She was presented with her trophy by Gordon Nicklin, from the Worcester AV group and Wolverhampton Photo Society.

I am told that the quality of entrants gave the judge a hard time.

The trophy is awarded for the best judged video slide show with accompanying music and/or commentary.

Vernon Goes Back To School!

Our own Vernon Elkin (known for his interest in drama and dressing up!) was spotted by the editor giving a Victorian school lesson to boys and girls at Sudbury Hall this half term. Vernon writes:

"A group of U3A researchers have been researching the Vernon Family their servants and the estate village of Sudbury. The group as been working on this project for over two years. The staff at Sudbury Hall, a National trust property will decide what the researchers should do next."



Bill Locker led the Ramblers on their summer holiday in Austria.
- here at Alpbach near St Anton.



Vernon as Doctor Who!

Travel Group Enthralled!

Regular members Glenn and Noel Clarke, our very own New Zealanders, and Beryl and David Slade gave a stunning presentation to a record attendance (30) in October. Both were in New Zealand in the new year coincidentally at the time of the big earthquake at Christchurch. We were treated to an inside view of life there (both were visiting family), and some stunning landscapes of sea & mountain and David wore his new Tshirt!



Noel describes the very

different lifestyle:

"The milder climate from that in the U.K. (longer warmer summers and shorter less cold winters), together with the closeness to mountains and sea, result in an outdoor



lifestyle: BBQs, sports, team games, hunting, fishing, horse riding, cafes and festivals.

Newcomers are now composed of many nationalities (from the U.K., Europe, the Pacific Islands and the Far East). They find the residents friendly and welcoming and are actively encouraged to become integrated into society – a society which is now proudly Kiwi.

The fact that cities are small by the standards of the U.K., and relatively isolated from other countries, mean that there is a tradition of being inventive and creative (unhindered by centuries of red tape). Despite there being few opportunities to work in huge firms of large management teams many Kiwis still prefer the smaller innovative firms and the slower paced way of life to that in larger neighbouring and more prosperous Australia."

Phil Boyer, Travel & Landscape leader writes: we do welcome all members to any of our monthly meetings wherever you'd like to travel to for a couple of hours! (2nd Thursdays, 1.30)

U3A Meets Prince!

At the beginning of May I was invited to a



From the left: Prince Edward, Sarah, Cynthia and Dorothy

conference at Keele University representing Cheadle U3A accompanied by 6 members who had participated in the "Challenge the Myths of Aging." This was a 6 session course run by Keele University lecturer Mo Ray. We were one of 4 groups who had taken part in the joint university/community based Active Aging Project last year which included The New Vic Theatre Newcastle. We took a pictorial display and leaflets illustrating what our U3A is all about. We were presented to the guest of honour, HRH Prince Edward. He spent a long time chatting to us after which we enjoyed a buffet lunch.

Sarah Williams



Trip Organiser Receives First Aid!

Margaret Plant being attended to at the First Aid Course for U3A members. Margaret tells

me that she can now deal with any trips! Richard organised the course in April and here he is giving his wife, Joyce, a sore head! About 8 members attended the half day course and received a First Aid Certificate.

(Ed.)



TWELVE MONTHS IN THE DIARY OF THE BIRD WATCHERS 2011

From January to July a total of 93 species of birds had been recorded, which is all thanks to Peter who not only identifies many birds for us but can also recognise the bird songs. We have had a wonderful twelve months with the Bird group, enjoying some lovely meals at the end of each visit with lots of chatter and laughter. Thanks go to our Group Leader Sue Fraser, Peter, and also to Val and Ian who helped with the organisation while Sue was in plaster for 12 weeks after her op. (still kept smiling). Looking forward to our annual Christmas lunch this time to be held at the Ramblers Retreat. (The programme for 2012 is on page 10).

Joan Barrow

The French Group at Play.....C'était notre Henri qui l'a gagné!

(roughly – "It was our 'Enri wot won it!")

Certain sounds are often associated in our minds with pleasures experienced and treasured.



The unique sound of cicadas in the trees on a warm summer evening reminds me of holidays spent in France over the years. This has so often been associated with that distinct sound of the French at play – that unique hard, determined, metallic **click** of the boules and the expressions of delight at yet another *carreau* scored against an opponent! Often the click is replaced by laughter, good fellowship and the chink of glasses as the contest is accompanied by a little liquid pleasure.

So it was that six members of the French Beginners

Plus group turned out one May morning to learn and play the game of *Pétanque*. With the blessing of Painsley College sports staff, the running track outside G14 was our boudrome, cicadas were replaced with Cheadle sparrows and the warm Mediterranean sun was replaced with a cool English Nor-Wester, force 4/5, temperature 12 degrees, 10/10 cloud cover and the threat of rain.....but the promised game had to be played.

13 is the magical number. Phil and Evelyn knew the rules of play. I had seen many times and practised boules, though without understanding all the finer points of the game. "It's a bit like playground marbles," was one comment. But we played very seriously under Phil and Evelyn's clear exposition of the rules. The Girls took an early lead but Phil, Henri and myself quickly got our eye on the ball (sic) and caught up. We learnt new terms – the little ball is called a *cochonnet* (literally "piglet") or jack. Some call it simply *le petit* or "the small one." We learnt about *having the point*, *holding*, *pointing*, *shooting*, *lobbing*, *à carreau*, *faire le bec* and an interesting term for total defeat "*mettre fanny*." This last was where one beats one's opponent 13 - 0. The origin of this term is also interesting but we won't go there for now! Fortified by *un café crème* we played on. Mercifully the threatened rain just about held off. The teams drew level and all depended on one final throw in the hands of intrepid player, linguistic enthusiast, man of many parts, a man whose life history cries out to be written, none other than our 'Enri!! And yes, you've guessed it, by the most expert lob ever seen on the boules courts of Cheadle, the Boys had won it!! We danced a jig of triumph and the gallant participants (Chris Mawdsley, Jean Garratt, Evelyn Gale, Henry Parker, Philip Gale *et moi*) ran in to G14 to warm up!

There's **FUN** to be had in French classes. And in the dark days of an English Winter I'm sitting in my armchair, closing my eyes, being quiet and just listening – to the sounds of the cicadas, the click of the boules, the chink of glasses. I think I can feel the warmth of the summer sun, the slow cooling of an evening as darkness falls, the taste of wine lingers still on my lips.....

Barry Barnett

NEW FEATURES will focus on our ACTIVITY GROUPS: Please contact the Editor if you'd like your group to be featured in the April 2012 In Touch.



Andy Lingham has lead the Geology group now for just 2 years and made quite an impact on its members. Andy was a professional geologist for many years and has brought his expertise and enthusiasm to the group. He writes:

During the autumn and the winter months, the Geology Group meet indoors at Room G14 at the 6th Form College. Starting the 2010 – 2011 session in September, we covered in outline the whole of geological time!, as well as the relevant rocks, fossils and scenery representing these geological periods throughout various regions of the UK.

The aim was to give the Group the big picture of the development of rocks, minerals and fossils in the UK since the earliest time. We tracked the UK as it wandered many thousands of miles around the globe, from near the South Pole, to our present location, and saw how the internal makeup of the Earth has driven large fragments of the crust apart, together and alongside each other to create and destroy rocks and continents.



The Group's enthusiasm extended to the field trips. In April we spent a very interesting day on a guided tour starting at the Lafarge Hope limestone works and visited several working and restored limestone quarries

The following month the

Group walked the first half of the Churnet Valley Geotrail, and in June visited Black Rock and the

surrounding area near Wirksworth. The Group, although not large, are very enthusiastic, and between them own a large selection of superb quality rocks, minerals and fossils which they are happy to bring into the classroom for examination.

I started the new "term" with a look at geological maps and how the outcrops shown on maps indicate rock structures deep below the Earth. Of course, many of the Group will have visited geologically interesting places during the summer, and we are always keen to look at and discuss photos and specimens brought back from these trips.

Having retired a few years ago, it has given me a great deal of pleasure to be able to share geology with such an enthusiastic group, and I look forward to the new "term".

Vaughan Richardson writes: I am far from an expert in the subject, but I did run our U3A's first geology group in the hope that the subject might appeal to our members. It is a diverse science and from a collectors point of view, I have experienced the thrill of finding fossils, particularly in my youth when I clambered over cliffs and quarries in Kent, Hampshire and beyond; and of picking up rocks and crystals in various parts of the Country. The challenge really comes in identifying them!

U3A now has a fully qualified geologist as group leader and he has brought the subject alive, certainly to me, but also I am sure to others. On behalf of the Group, I thank Andy for leading





Vivienne Cowie launched this activity a year ago as a self-help group for members of varying interests and skill. Vivienne says:

My aim was to form a social art 'club' where members could bring along projects, work in any medium or style just for fun, and be inspired by others.



(Ed.) Here are a few responses from the group expressing their "fun".

As a new member I find it a relaxing, friendly group and look forward to new projects..... Having not done any painting for ten years, I hope to find inspiration to start again in a friendly atmosphere...We get encouragement without criticism whatever we produce. We get warmth from all of our group mates. I go home smiling which keeps me happy for days..... Relaxation, pure enjoyment, learning techniques, encouragement without criticism, very friendly group.....Enjoyment, inspiration from others, practice, relaxation and friendship.....

My husband could paint and draw and I could not. I looked forward to meeting other people in the group and seeing the talent they had. Since he died I have returned to the group. It helps me a lot and I certainly enjoy my daubs !

Good company with like minded people who always gel. No teacher as such but one can learn from other group members as there are always people who seem better than one's self. Plus a charming leader and her 2nd in command make it a pleasure to be part of the group.

The Art Club exhibited work at the Cheadle Arts Festival earlier this year and have shown paintings at the Foxt Arts Festival in October. We aim to invite guest demonstrators occasionally and who knows what next year will bring – our lively group is not short of ideas! We are fortunate to have the Guild Hall as our meeting place which means that there is plenty of space and you would be welcome to join us if you are inspired to pick up your brushes! (Vivienne)



U3A display at Foxt

(Ed..) When I visited the group last month Vivienne had organised a watercolour demonstration from an accomplished local artist, Rosemary Hale, who demonstrated a cloudy mountain landscape, a favourite theme of hers.

She described walking in Patagonia, in the Andes, as the inspiration for landscape. An enthralled audience asked lots of questions of her technique.



JOAN'S DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

There have been lots of requests to repeat the following events next year.....

U3A QUIZ NIGHT**SATURDAY JANUARY 28TH 2012****in The Guildhall Cheadle 7-10pm****Teams of 4 to 6 persons****£1 per person****Bring your own refreshments****Register your team now! Contact Joan Charles:****(tel: 01538 753545 email: ejc123@tiscali.co.uk)**

Last Tea Party 2010

**CHEADLE U3A**

invites you to join us for

*****AFTERNOON TEA *****

with music by

The Sweet Melody Dreamboat Band

(dancing optional)

MONDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2012

admission by ticket only £3.50

Tickets on sale at December & January Coffee Mornings: Joan Charles (Tel. 01538 753545)

STANDING ORDER FORMS

This allows the individual member to pay their annual subscription directly from their bank account - they are in control of the process.

Completion of the form is straight forward, it will require:

- **"Account Name"** - if the account is in joint names – **both** names are required
- **"Account Number", "Sort Code", and "Membership Number"**.
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*Should members wish to continue to pay their subscription by the existing means this is quite acceptable, for example, if you wish to continue to make your **payment by cheque** please ensure it is sent **together with your personal membership renewal form** to the Membership Secretary as soon as possible **after 1st January 2012 but no later than February 28th 2012.***

John Owen (Membership Secretary)