

NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE FOR 2016

Some Committee members have retired from the Committee this year so we are looking for some new members to join us. If you are interested in joining the Committee you will find a Nomination form on the final page of this newsletter.

The Committee meets around six times per year and takes on the tasks of organising meetings and speakers, managing groups, organising social events, liaison with Head Office and other matters.

New Committee members will be elected at the AGM which will be held as usual at the February meeting when membership is due for renewal.

CURRY AND SOCIAL EVENING

On 30 October, over 60 members enjoyed another successful curry night. I have received comments that it was a very good night; the food was excellent and both the curry and hot pot were hot and tasty. We noticed that seconds were taken by several members, which is a good sign. The curry was accompanied by the traditional quiz set by Diane with the winning table receiving a box of Roses chocolates.

Some members have commented that they find it difficult to get tickets for our events. Information about forthcoming events is included in the newsletters but tickets are sold at monthly meetings. If you are unable to get to the relevant meeting you may be able to ask a friend to get one for you or you could contact any Committee member to make a suitable arrangement.

Maureen Christian

LOOKING AHEAD

Next year is the fifteenth anniversary of High Lane U3A. What ideas do you have for commemorating the anniversary? Please give your ideas to the Editor or any Committee member.

AUTUMN COLOURS



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FROM THE EDITOR

Please note that this edition of the newsletter is available by email and on the High Lane U3A web site but not in printed form.

Items for the newsletter from members are always welcome so if you have any suggestions for content or articles of interest to U3A members please contact me at newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk The next edition of the newsletter will be the January 2016 edition. Please can you get your contributions to me by 28 December?

MONTHLY MEETINGS

The September meeting was entitled the Red Wolves of Ethiopia. Pollyanna Pickering took us on an incident-packed expedition to seek out and paint these rare animals, illustrated by many drawings and photographs. Abyssinian wolves are an elegant, long-legged species of wolf found only in a handful of scattered remote mountains in Ethiopia.

Pollyanna is one of Europe's foremost wildlife artists. The most published artist in the UK, her work sells in over eighty countries worldwide. She brought a range of beautiful wildlife cards, calendars and gifts for our members to view and purchase. You can find out more about her work at

<http://www.pollyannapickering.co.uk/>

The October meeting was a fascinating journey into the life of Sir John Barbarolli given by Geoff Scargill. Entitled 'Miracle in Manchester' Geoff explained how Barbarolli arrived in Manchester in 1943 to find the Halle orchestra depleted in numbers and without a performing space; the Free Trade Hall having been destroyed in 1940. His first concert was given at Belle Vue in August 1943 with an audience of 6,000. His concerts were regularly over-subscribed. Geoff played us some wonderful music included some from the work that Barbarolli did with Kathleen Ferrier.

Geoff's talks raise money for his Cancer Charity and he contacted us after the meeting to thank members for their donations which amounted to over £200.

Geoff also told us about his role with the Elgar Society where he is Chairman of the North West branch. The Society meets monthly and the December meeting is on the 5th, with Geoff as the subject of Desert Island discs! Meetings are held in the Lecture Theatre of the Royal Northern College of Music on Oxford Road Manchester starting at 2.30pm and are usually over by 4.45pm. There is no charge except for tea or coffee.

Geoff says "You will find us a very friendly group and whatever your knowledge of Elgar's music (we are not all musical experts - including me!) I'm sure you will feel at home. If you do come to a meeting please come and introduce yourself to me personally".

There is more information on the Society's website at <http://elgar.org/elgarsoc/branches/north-west/>

PENNINE LINK CLASSICAL MUSIC RECITAL

Marple U3A organised this year's event on October 6th in High Lane Village Hall. We were treated to a piano recital by concert pianist Andrew Wilde who is an excellent ambassador for the North West Outreach organisation, dedicated to bringing classical music to communities who might rarely have an opportunity to hear such music. He played a selection of fairly well-known and difficult pieces from the 19th century. Our village hall piano had probably never experienced such a work-out!

Chopin: Scherzo no.2 in B flat minor

Chopin: Berceuse

Beethoven: Moonlight Sonata in C sharp

Chopin: Polonaise in A flat major

Andrew Wilde introduced each work and was very interesting. He also had a question and answer session. The audience asked perceptive and thoughtful questions which he answered knowledgeably and with humour. It was a most enjoyable afternoon but a pity the audience was so small from so many U3A groups. However that was their loss!!

Sue Dintinger

ROMILEY U3A COMPUTER GROUP

Romiley U3A has a 10 week computer course starting Monday 11 January from 4 pm to 6 pm in the IT department at Romiley Primary School, Sandy Lane, Romiley. The course is suitable for absolute beginners to improvers. Participants will work from books with helpers available to assist where needed. The cost is £10 for the 10 week course. If you wish to join this course please see the Editor for a booking form.

VILLAGE HALL TABLE TOP SALE

The next table Top sale at the Village Hall is on Sunday 29th November from 11.30am to 1.30pm Tables £8 or £10 on the day. Come and grab a bargain. Refreshments available. Contact Dorothy Graham.*

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

OUR U3A ACTIVITIES

27 Nov	High Lane U3A choir at St Georges Church
9 Dec	Christmas meeting. The Bus Pass Ukulele band. Members only. Admission by ticket.
12 Dec	Theatre group. The Royal exchange presents Into the Woods by Stephen Sondheim. Royal Exchange. Last date for booking is 30 September. £25.50 ticket only. No coach.
13 Jan 2016	Monthly meeting. Talk by David Frith. Subject "The Goyt Valley"

FORTHCOMING HOLIDAYS AND VISITS

Contact: Margaret McDermott or Ruth Smith

4 Dec	TATTON HALL Lunch and tour of the Hall.
May 2016	Suffolk. Details to follow
June 2016	Edinburgh. Details to follow

The Travel group is currently planning holidays and visits for 2016. Possible holidays in 2016 include Suffolk May, Baltic Cruise June, Cornwall July and Berlin September.

THE GREAT BRITISH BAKE OFF

BBC baking contest The Great British Bake Off is returning in 2016 and the production team are currently looking for the next batch of great home bakers to take part. So who's the best baker you know? If you, or someone you know, can turn out a terrific tart, produce a perfect pie or serve up a sublime sponge, then please get in touch now.

For more information or an application form, go to: www.thegreatbritishbakeoff.co.uk

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

10-21 Nov	Guys and Dolls. Palace Manchester.
10-12 Nov	The Barber of Seville. Opera North. Lowry theatre.
Now - 28 Feb	Putting on the Glitz. 1930s evening wear. Lady Lever Gallery.
14 Nov - 10 Jan	Abstract landscapes. Whitworth Art Gallery
16-21 Nov	And Then There were None. Opera House Manchester
16 Nov	Stockport Plaza tour. 11am
17 Nov & 23 Nov	Hamlet. Benedict Cumberbatch. NT Live. Manchester Printworks.
19 Nov	Of Mice and Men. NT Live. Various venues
22 Nov	The Nutcracker. Stockport Plaza
26-28 Nov	Romeo and Juliet. English National Ballet. Palace Manchester
26-28 Nov	Season's Greeting by Alan Ayckbourn. Buxton opera House
29 Nov	Die Fledermaus . Buxton Opera House
30 Nov	Lunchtime concert on the Wurlitzer organ. Stockport Town hall
6 Dec	Beyond the Barricade at Christmas. Buxton Opera House
5, 6, 12, 13 Dec	Carols by the Tree at Dunham Massey. Cost £9. Booking essential
8 Dec	Jane Eyre. NT Live. Various venues
11 Dec	St Ann's Hospice Festival Choir presents <i>Christmas is Coming</i> . Bridgewater Hall. Ticket £20-27. Transport available from St Ann's Hospice £6.

ART at LYME PARK

Lyme Park hosted two heats of Sky Arts Landscape Artists of the year in May 2015. An exhibition of the paintings is on display each weekend until 14 Feb 2016. Previously unseen artwork by members of the Leigh family will also be on display. Cost £4.

The programmes are available to view via the Sky catch up service.

GROUP REPORTS

BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 3 AND 4

23rd September/1st October: We watched part of a documentary on the American choreographer Jerome Robbins, whose work included the Broadway hits The King and I, West Side Story and Fiddler on the Roof. We concentrated mainly on his work with the New York City Ballet. This was followed by his work Dances at a Gathering, set to music by Chopin and beautifully danced by members of the Paris Opera Ballet.

25th October/5th November: We saw the Royal Ballet's production of La Bayadere (The Temple Dancer), with Tamara Rojo and Carlos Acosta.

Future plans include Coppelia and The Winter's Tale.

Meg Humphries

CARDMAKING GROUP

We have continued with our Christmas themed meetings and made festive cards galore over the last few months; I've attached some photos to give you a flavour of what we have made. The techniques are varied, including "stepper" shaped cards, some stunning cards made using die cut images, a stamped and coloured image, and a metallic heat embossed Christmas tree.

We are a small but friendly group, and new members are always welcome. We not only make cards designed by members of the group, but we also love the opportunity to share tips, techniques, and other interesting and exciting card designs. Our next meeting is on Thursday 3 December, and it will be the last of our Christmas themed meetings - for this year anyway!

If you are interested in joining us, please email me or look out for Dot and I at the U3A meetings.

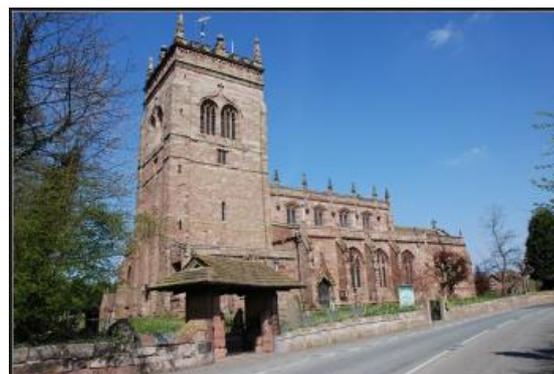
Christine Fox
Dot Green



CHURCHES AND PUBS

Wednesday 4th November St Mary's Church Acton

Acton is a small village outside Nantwich although as we approached the Church it was obvious from its size it had once served a large community. On arrival we were welcomed and given a booklet about the Church followed by an informative potted history.



There had been a church on the site for over 1000 years and possibly longer as several Saxon stones were unearthed during restoration work. Some believe the font may also have Saxon origins. The tower has very thick walls as it was originally used as a shelter from Welsh invaders. In the 12 century nearby Combermere Abbey sent a priest to conduct services and collect tithes and so the present church was constructed.

During the following years it has been expanded and altered and is now a magnificent Grade1 listed building. The almshouses outside are believed to be the oldest stone built buildings still remaining in Cheshire, they were occupied until the 1930's. During the Civil war the church was used by the Cavalier army, in fact the battle of Nantwich should really be called the battle of Acton. In 1662 Acton Grammar School was founded. It was built alongside the church and it was hoped it would become the "Eton" of the north. Sadly this did not happen and the school was demolished in 1885.

Inside the church there is an interesting alabaster effigy of William Mainwaring, a crusader knight who died in 1399. He left money and assets in his will, crusading was a profitable occupation. There are many interesting artifacts within the church including a charity board noting the donation of money and land given to the church in the 1700's. A plaque commemorating the life of Thomas Egerton Hale is of interest as he was one of the first soldiers to receive a VC for service in the Crimean War. A N Hornby is buried in the graveyard. He was captain of the English cricket team who lost to the Australians in 1882. The bails were subsequently burned and became the Ashes.

This was an excellent outing to a church well worth visiting. We all then retired to the Globe public house for lunch.

Graham Howe

CINEMA CLUB

After a long summer break we have had three outings to the Regent in quick succession.

"45 Years" on 10 September

I had high hopes for this film as it had won awards for the stars and praise from the critics but most of our members found it rather flat and depressing. We expected more in the way of a story.

"A Walk In The Woods" on 28th September

This film, very loosely based on Bill Bryson's book, was most entertaining. A "feel good" experience, warmly recommended. Look out for it when its shown later on TV.

"Suffragette" on 15th October

A very gritty film which captured the harsh period and working conditions superbly acted by a stellar cast. If I had my way it would be on the syllabus for schools
A truly memorable film, which didn't disappoint.

I am looking at future releases but have no dates at the moment. Top of the list is "The Lady In The Van" starring the superb Maggie Smith. I'll contact members as usual when I have more details

Sheila Harrop

CRAFT AND NEEDLEWORK

Members of the group have been working hard in recent months preparing items for our pre-Christmas sale at the November general meeting. Items for sale will include hand-made Christmas cards, knitted dolls, scarves of various kinds, cushions, door stops and tissue dispensers. We will also be holding a raffle this year in aid of the Tree House Children's Unit at Stepping Hill Hospital.

The pictures show a selection of Christmas cards made by several members of the group and dolls, hand-knitted by June Gibbs. The clown doll will be one of our raffle prizes which will also include a necklace, a scarf and a cushion. In the past, members of the U3A have always been very generous in supporting us in November and we hope this year will be no exception.



In October our group was visited by a reporter from the High Peak Review who was very interested in the hats and wrist-warmers we knitted for children in Nepal. The article she wrote should appear in the November edition of the Review. An extract from the article says

Members of High Lane U3A's craft and needlework group have put their skills to good use to help children in Nepal. The group, which meets monthly at each other's homes, knitted beanie hats and wrist warmers for a project run by Cheshire Fire Cadets and the Diocese of Chester Mothers' Union.

The knitted clothing has already been delivered to a collection point ready for dispatch. It will be taken to Nepal by fire service cadets who are travelling there in November to help build a school in one of the country's mountainous areas.



Marlene Brookes

DINING GROUP

In October the Dining Group visited Lyme Hall and as usual traffic on the A6 was at a standstill due to roadworks. Once in the park however any irritation we might have felt melted away as we motored to the Hall, unfortunately none of the deer were spotted nor did we find Mr Darcy swimming in the lake.

The restaurant is situated in the old Ale Cellar which is in two parts, we were allocated the lower half which gave us privacy and we felt we were the only people there. Although the menu is not extensive the food is all fresh and where possible they use local produce from the estate and local farmers. We all enjoyed ourselves and came away replete. Many of us finished the afternoon with a visit to the gift shops.

Our Christmas lunch is on December 15th and by popular request we are going back to The Legh Arms in Prestbury. As per usual we will be taking bookings at the November meeting. If you are able to offer other people a lift to the venue please will you mention this as we hear from some ladies who would like to join us but have no means of transport.

Jeanette Bell
Dorothy Neillands

FAMILY HISTORY

The work the group put into investigating their relatives involved in WW1 was displayed at our general meeting in April and will be shown again on 11th November.

In addition we were invited to present this display on 7th October at St Thomas's Church, High Lane at their regular monthly coffee morning. Church members provided refreshments, a raffle was held and cakes were sold. The exhibition was well received and we would like to thank all those who supported the event, made cakes and served teas.

New members are always welcome.
Please contact Sue Harlin or Pat Christopher.

Thank you to the Family History group

I would like to say a big thank you to the High Lane U3A Family History group for supporting the coffee morning at St. Thomas' Church High Lane on Oct. 7th. They put on a brilliant and professional display on information about WW1 in church. It was very much enjoyed by everyone and a great success.

We raised £300 at the coffee morning, the money will be divided between The Parkinson's Society and St. Thomas Church. Once again sincere thanks for your support.

June Gibbs



GARDENING

For our September meeting, seven of us took the busy but scenic Woodhead route on our first Yorkshire visit to Wentworth Castle Gardens. Although late in the gardening season, there was plenty of colour in parts of the garden, especially a long dahlia bed, flanked by rows of Autumn Crocus (*colchicum*), and masses of white Japanese Anemone, blue Verbena Bononiensis and varied grasses. The showcase circular garden was also very colourful with late bedding yellow begonias and blue salvias contrasting with white and purple foliage plants.



The much heralded flag gardens, partitioned in triangular shapes to imitate a union jack, were a disappointment compared with an earlier visit. The dividing miniature hollies had now grown into tall hedges, with the herbaceous and flowering shrubs now hidden, and the overall pattern no longer obvious (except to flying birds and helicopters!). And the inside individual triangles were badly in need of weeding - in spite of the 6 gardeners employed there!

The gardens are large, in keeping with the imposing mansion (now in use as the Northern College for Residential and Community Adult Education), with pathways and avenues. Many fine tall specimen trees shelter National Collections of Camellia, Magnolia and Rhododendron, with abundant azaleas, acers, primroses and hellebores showing why the gardens are at best in Spring/Early Summer. At the upper



end, an ancient looking (but mock!) castle gives wide views of the parkland beyond and surprisingly lovely countryside, with distant power stations hardly visible except by telephoto.

The green areas of the gardens were enlivened by frequent clumps of cyclamen and different colours of hydrangea; and a welcome buggy was at hand to transport tired limbs to the upper reaches of the woods. What's more, the RHS members amongst us got in free. Can't be bad!

For the October meeting, nine members met at Pam Reed's house in Romiley. We enjoyed tasty home-made cakes, and settled down to discuss next year's programme, trying to find a balance between house visits and public garden visits, and all to be fitted in when gardens are at their best in the summer months! We also saw a slide show of the 2015 visits and meetings. Our next meeting is in January when we will get together for a meal.

Business out of the way, we toured Pam's garden; a straightforward design, but with lots of individual flowers still blooming – not bad for mid-October! So, thanks for Pam's hospitality – more gardens to see next year!

Walter Mason

GERMAN GROUP

We continue to meet every Friday, discussing topical issues and benefiting greatly from having a native German person in the group. On December 11th we are having our annual Christmas lunch at the Wycliffe hotel in Edgeley which is always a highlight of the year.

Marlene Brookes

HISTORY GROUP

The talk on the Indian Mutiny on 30 September gave good background information which enabled the mutiny to be set in the context of its time which was important to try to understand the causes. The Mogul Empire was in its decline and the British East India Company had become very powerful and had carried out many reforms, often in a ruthless way.

The spark that triggered the mutiny was the use of cow or pig fat in the manufacture of bullets for the recently introduced Enfield rifles. The Indians in the East India Company's army had to bite the bullets to load the rifles and these types of grease were either unacceptable to the Hindus or the Muslims: however, this was only the spark. There many other underlying causes such as the annexation of many small kingdoms and also the Indians belief that the authorities were trying to force them to become Christians.

The mutiny lasted two years largely due to the incompetence of the British military and also the terrible conditions under which it was fought: disease and the heat probably killed as many of the troops as the actual fighting.

October meeting

At this month's history group meeting there were three presentations. Madeleine Hennessy 's presentation on Kemal Ataturk was very pertinent given the situation in Turkey today. It covered his early life and also his rise to prominence during and after WW1as one of the Young Turks. Post WW1 he then became the sole leader of Turkey and is known as the father of Turkey, introducing a more secular society.

Barbara Farmer's topic was Father Francis Browne, an Irish Jesuit priest, whose hobby of photography has provided a prolific number of photographs taken on the Titanic before it sank in 1912. Father Browne's uncle had given him a ticket to sail on the Titanic from Southampton to Queenstown in Ireland. However, whilst on board he was befriended by a wealthy American couple who offered to pay the remainder of the fare for him to continue to sail on to New York. Fortunately for Father Browne, his superiors in Ireland ordered him to return to Ireland, how lucky can you be!

The final presentation was given by Sue Clarke on Margaret Fell, one of the founder members of the Religious Society of Friends and was popularly known as the 'Mother of Quakerism'. Her home in Lancashire, Swarthmoor Hall, became a centre of Quaker activity and often a haven for those being persecuted. She was arrested twice for pursuing her religious beliefs which included equality for women and spent several years in Lancaster prison.

The next meeting will be on Weds 25th November, 7.30pm when Sheila will be presenting a topic on the Pendle Witches.

Pam Curley

OPERA APPRECIATION

8th / 22nd September: We saw a performance of La Boheme, by the Royal Opera. Recorded in 1982, this is my favourite performance of this long-standing production, which was performed for the last time this year.

13th / 27th October: We stayed with the Royal Opera for a most compelling performance of Rigoletto.

Our last three operas have had tragic endings, so for our next meeting I intend to show a comedy: Donizetti's L'Elisir D'Amore (The Love Potion) , and to follow this with The Magic Flute.

Meg Humphries

PHOTOGRAPHY

The topic for the September meeting was Science. Initially this caused most of us to scratch our heads, but on the day there was a varied selection of interesting pictures. The result was: 1st Walter Mason – Butterfly Investigation; 2nd Chris Gibson – Spinning Gyroscope; 3rd Brian Beck – Steam Engine “King George V”. Examination of our pictures illustrated the wide scope of science, but also how with photography we could each display only a tiny aspect of the subject.



Walter Mason



In October the group met at Fred's house and the subject of the competition was Clouds and Sky pictures. The results were : 1st Brian Beck; 2nd Bob Barlow; joint 3rd Brian Beck and Chris Gibson.



Fred gave us some information about different types of clouds and cloud formations. There was a discussion about the difficulties of capturing cloud scenes; lighting and surroundings playing a part. The difficulties of capturing locomotive steam against light skies were voiced and the

conclusion was that dark storm clouds were a better background. Reflections of sky are always bluer than reality due to differences in reflection of different parts of the light spectrum.

Pam Wood

TRAVEL GROUP

Ireland

September 2015

What a "Corking" holiday we enjoyed in Ireland this September. Rosscarbery is a picturesque resort with a beautiful rugged coastline. It was home to hundreds of wading and water birds. The weather was perfect. The hotel was five star regarding food and friendly efficient staff. There were smiling faces and kind voices everywhere. All the villages were decorated with green and yellow flags to support the local Gaelic football team which had reached the final. Along the roadside verges montbretia and fuchsia grew in profusion.

West Cork was a revelation for its great beauty. Mizen Head in particular was spectacular. It overlooked the Atlantic; next stop west North America after passing the Fastnet lighthouse. Everyone managed the 99 (and more) steps from the visitors' centre, across the bridge and on to the signal station.

We visited the shrine of St. Finbarr, the founder of the city of Cork. in the most beautiful location by an unbelievably tranquil, magical, atmospheric lake and were blown away by the breathtaking scenery and felt truly uplifted.

A trip by ferry to Garinish Island with a stop to photograph the seals on the way. A lovely Italian garden with paved walkways, colonnades and an amazing variety of shrubs and flowers

Our final visit was to the Titanic Experience and Cobh Heritage Centre with displays showing the conditions endured by thousands of Irish who emigrated to America and Australia.

From the moment we landed, to our
Arrival at the hotel in
Beautiful weather, to the
Incomparable good food, to the
Lovely trips and perfect driving of
Our own brilliant driver Wayne, to the
Unbelievable countryside and magnificent
Scenery, sea and mountains, it was all amazing.

One of our group decided to visit the area on her own. She found it was a good walking area then visited Warren Beach before catching the bus to Clonakilty. There she met a local lady who advised her to have afternoon tea at the "Sticky Bun Cafe. Yummy cakes as the name implies.

We ran out of superlatives to describe the beauty of Ireland. It left an indelible impression on many of us who would very much like to return.

Susan, June, Pat, Betty, Lynda, Janet, Barbara, Carol and Sadie.

Adriatic/ Aegean Cruise

October 2015



Our holiday started with a flight to Istanbul, with a 2 night stay in a hotel. Most of us visited the highlights; The Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, Grand Bazaar etc. What a bustling city. The Celebrity Constellation was our ship; at 91,000 tons not a dull moment was there to be had.

After a day at sea, we were tendered into Mykonos which was delightful with its snow white houses and windmills. The next day we arrived at Katakolon, from where we took a train ride to Olympia, the site of the original Olympic games of 776 BC.

The next day it was Corfu, known as the "emerald isle" because of its lush greenery and famous for what is considered Greece's best olive oil.

From Split in Croatia we visited the charming island town of Trogir. In Split, we visited Diocletians Palace, a Unesco world heritage site; remarkable as the city grew around what resembles a large fortress from 3rd century AD. and still in amazing condition.

The next day we tied up at Dubrovnic with its fabulous medieval city wall to walk 1.2 miles up and down over 1000 steps, and then the cable car to take us high above the city for the spectacular views.

A day at sea brought us to Athens, where we took a coach trip to Corinth, where our guide gave us the history of what is one of the most important towns in antiquity. We then took a cruise along the Corinth canal.

The following morning found us at Kusadasi, from where we visited Ephesus, the showplace of Aegean archaeology, credited to be colonized by the Ionians in the 10th century BC. With a day at sea to follow we returned to Istanbul for our flight back home.

I'm sure all 13 travellers enjoyed the cruise. On board we had fabulous service from the most attentive 935 crew members, who served 2175 passengers from 36 countries. The meals were excellent, the entertainment and all about the ship first class.

Andre Lister

SOUTHWELL

23 - 24 October for the Southwell Apple Festival.

Comments from members :

"Wallaton Hall was a lovely venue and most interesting. Southwell Minster and Apple Fair was great with many stalls in the Minster and lots of food to taste and buy."



" Particularly liked Southwell Workhouse because it challenged my understanding of what Workhouses were like"

"Apple Festival really interesting and together with the other visits made the one night stopover most enjoyable."

"Wollaton Hall garden was spectacular with autumn colours in the trees. The Apple Festival brought 'life' to the Minster - wonderful foods to taste and buy. The Workhouse was brought to life by realistic actors and actresses (volunteers) telling stories of lives of Workhouse inhabitants. Excellent hotel".

Ruth Smith

WALKING GROUP

SEPTEMBER



Ten members went on Louane's walk to the northwest of Cuddington. The 5½ mile walk was a tale of contrasts. Near to Cuddington were the quiet lanes and sandy undulating paths more typical of the Delamere area, wandering past picturesque pools and through pleasant woodlands. The middle section of the walk was on apparently little used Delamere Way fieldpaths over the rough grassy meadows of the Cheshire plain, surprisingly short of trees for an area Ordnance Survey designates as the centre of "The Mersey Forest"!

There was plenty of interest on the way. There were nice views of the River Weaver valley towards Northwich and Frodsham, isolated attractive cottages and farmhouses in varied styles, a buzzard, Sloe berries and a herd of Dutch Belted cows. We had our lunch stop by a vigorous crop of clover busy augmenting nitrogen levels in the old-fashioned "organic" way, then a missing sign puzzled us before we traversed a field – "beware of the bull" was the non-missing sign on the other side of the field! A field of tall growing maize spilled over, almost blocking our footpath and making it tricky going. Recent ploughing forced us round a field rather than across. By Cuddington Brook swathes of invader Himalayan Balsam were cheek and jowl with masses of native Reedmace (often mistakenly called Bullrush – whereas true Bulrush is a sedge).

A number of stiles and uneven grassland had made our progress in the field section somewhat slow, but overall we had enjoyed our trip to the heart of Cheshire in the hazy but pleasant sunshine, and thanked Louanne for it.



OCTOBER REPORTS

TUESDAY WALK



Nine of us joined David Burke for the scenic run up Longdendale to Langsett. There was a nip in the air as we strode a soft pineneedle-strewn path beneath the tall conifers of Langsett Bank, with glimpses of the low reservoir waters on our left. We crossed the feeder stream by bridge, then zig-zagged up Delf Edge on a stony path to the wide heather moorland of Hingcliff Common. We passed a couple of grouse, a kestrel, then sheep feeding in the occasional gaps in the heather before a coffee stop at North America in the remains of a once grand farm, reputedly used as target practice in the run up to D-Day.

We continued into Thickwoods, which were gentler woods, now sprinkled with deciduous trees in Autumn tints, with heather burning in the distance. The sun broke out as we turned up a walled path to Upper Midhope, then a path descended to Shaw Lane and the tarmac reservoir road. Some engaged in technical discussion with a water board technician, but most swiftly crossed to the ancient barn and stone built cottages. We gathered to finish with a civilised lunch round a broad picnic table. Only 3½ miles, but varied pleasant scenery and good going (no stiles!), so David got good marks on this rare foray into Yorkshire.

LAST WEDNESDAY WALK

14 members went to Edale for Ruth and Dave's 4 mile walk, undeterred by forecast rain. After making for Edale village, we began a relatively gentle and easy walk through the fields alongside Kinderscout, following the start of the Pennine Way (Alternative Route). Watchers of BBC Countryfile will have noted this route featured in a Children In Need special a few days later. The fieldpaths have been improved, and gates have replaced rickety stiles, the result of a more caring access policy. The route went to Upper Booth, skirted the head of the valley to Barber Booth with pleasant views everywhere, then returned unerringly to our parking places at the Rambler Hotel – the whole route without a single stile!

The rain eased while we enjoyed our lovely lunches before a hot fire at the pub, so we were less damp on our way home, and all were well pleased with Ruth and Dave's choice of walk.

LATE AUTUMN BREAK

A group of 10 took advantage of a cheap HF offer, and explored the quiet area around Sedbergh. David Burke found easy paths by the Rivers Rawthey and Clough, and led the group to an exciting ravine by Hebblethwaite Hall. They also discovered that the gentle-looking Howgill Fells did have some steep slopes and variable weather conditions, even on the minor summits of Crook and Winder. They also discovered that rights of way were less defined than in our area, making route finding harder – fortunately the local farmers were helpful, even if their dogs did bark and growl a lot! But a highlight was an unexpected magical cloud lifting on Winder revealing beautiful views of the Sedbergh valley. Thorns Hall was a small but welcoming place, with good food, and another group from Bolton who joined one of our walks, and engaged in friendly contests of carpet putting and carpet bowls. So the group of 10 really enjoyed their 3 night break in the late Autumn, and thanked Steve Reynolds for initiating the break.

(report based on information from Jeff Mortimer)

Walter Mason

We have some space before the nomination form so you may fancy spending a few minutes on the festive word search puzzle, kindly contributed by Amy Summers

CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH PUZZLE

Hidden in the grid are words relating to the Christmas Story. The words run up and down, backwards and forwards and diagonally. There are 22 for you to find as detailed below.

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F I D L W I S E M E N T S O I J
D I V A D L G O B X C Z R L O D
C A G O O D W I L L O N S S H L
B E U O Y R A M P T A G E A N E
R I H Z O U O S F B Y P D V K I
S U S E J D S U O G H T V I E F
E E S T Y A T L O M R G P O H F
P E O T S F A I S X F T E U C S
B W E L H E R O D R S A A R Y H
T O F L S G A R X I I A C R Z E
U F L R T A X E D N N C E G L F
M N O B D S O E R A N G E L S H
S R C Y Z C B L D B N G S T N E
E F K H J W V I K A K I R N B R
B E T H L E H E M B S H F L B D
T O U G S T A B L E B A N Y H S
    
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- | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| Wise men | Bethlehem | Shepherds |
| Good Tidings | Angels | Star |
| Goodwill | Stable | Inn |
| Joseph | Flock | Field |
| Mary | Peace | Joy |
| Taxed | Jesus | Herod |
| Manger | Babe | David |
| Saviour | | |

HIGH LANE U3A COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS FOR 2016

The Committee for 2016 is to be elected at the AGM on 10 February 2016.

If you wish to nominate any member for the Committee or the post of Secretary please complete the form and return it to either Margaret McDermott or Sue Harlin by the date of the monthly meeting on 13 January 2016.

Please cut:

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	NOMINEE	SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	NOMINATED BY	SECONDED BY
SECRETARY				
COMMITTEE MEMBER				