

HIGH LANE U3A NEWSLETTER

www.highlaneu3a.org.uk

Editor Jean Drinkwater

e mail: newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk

March 2010



HIGH LANE
U3A

Can You Help?

Walter Mason has taken over from Louanne Collins as speaker finder for our general meetings. He wishes to make a plea for anyone with details of past speakers (month/name/title or subject), to send him a copy of the details.

The ones he is missing are - years 2001 - 2005 (all months), and also Jan 2006, Jan 2007, and Nov 2009.

It is to prevent duplication of presentations at future meetings and to provide a historical record.

--ooOoo--

A.G.M. Summary and Committee Changes

The chairman, John McCartney, stated that it has been another successful year with 330 members at the end of 2009, 24 active groups and healthy finances. John stressed the importance of recruiting new members from the younger end of our age range.

The secretary and treasurer gave their reports. Peter Collins is to audit the accounts.

John went on to thank last year's committee including non-committee members who run the website.

Appreciation was shown by the members.

Apologies were given for Brian Farquhar and Steve Reynolds. The proposed new committee was announced and introduced. John McCartney and Mike Snape stepped down. Steve Reynolds was elected chairman and Derek Jones elected as a committee member. Louanne then chaired the meeting.

Thanks were expressed to John and Mike and they were each presented with a book token. Statements were read from Steve Reynolds and the group leaders. The meeting closed at 4.05pm.

Jean Drinkwater, Sue Harlin and Richard Clark were co-opted to the committee at its first meeting.

--ooOoo--

Singing group

Meets each Friday morning from 10 am to 12 noon at High Lane Village Hall.

The type of music we sing ranges from Modern Classics to Show Music and Traditional Songs.

We concluded last year with a concert at which we sang a selection of Sinatra Songs, some U.K. Folk Songs and an arrangement of 'Fields of Gold' by 'Sting'.

We will start 2010 with an excellent arrangement of some of 'The Beatles' music. Also during the year we aim to tackle further folk songs and perhaps a Cantata or two.

If this type of music appeals to you - and you can sing in tune - then please come along whether or not you can read music. We sing in three and four part harmony, thus all voices will be welcome; tenors, basses, altos and sopranos.

If you would like to join us then please phone Tony or Margaret Glynn.

Marple Bridge & Mellor (Open) Gardening group

Open to any U3A member in The Pennine Link

This group meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 9.45am in the Methodist Church Hall on Church Lane, Marple.

- February 10th. Growing Vegetables/fruit in containers, a presentation by David Hampsey.
- March 10th. Tba
- April 14th. Wildlife in Stockport and in our Gardens. A presentation by Emma Wilson, SMBC Nature Development Team.
- May 12th. Visit to Adlington Hall. A guided Bluebell Walk by Head Gardener, Anthony O'Grady. Cost £5. Tearoom available for lunch which must be pre-ordered.
- June 9th. Hanging Basket Workshop by Kate Lomax. Wicker baskets £15-£16, Moss baskets £25.
- July 14th. Visit to One House Nursery, Macclesfield. Arrive at Nursery by 10.30; visit gardens, tea and cakes, cost £5 pp. Please note - terrain up and down.
- August 11th. Our very own Flower and Produce Show.
Show Schedule available from Margaret Hogg or from Judy Rhodes.

--ooOoo--

Holidays & Visits group

- Wed 17 March :** Victoria Baths visit at 1.45pm - £8. Using local transport. Meeting at 1.45pm outside Victoria Baths on Hathersage Road, off Plymouth Grove. Manchester. Final payment MARCH MEETING
- Tues 4 May :** Rhineland Tour, Germany (Coach and Ferry) 6 nights
"Four Rivers & a Castle" a 7 day tour starting 4th May 2010.
Payment for this holiday required by the MARCH MEETING.
- Tues 25 May :** Day trip to the Black Country Museum near Dudley, £25. Deposit £10 at the MARCH MEETING. Final payment APRIL MEETING.
- Thurs 9th Sept :** Tour North Norfolk - visiting Sandringham - 4 Nights.
£319.00 pp, Deposit £50 pp (£293 based on 40 people).
Price includes:
4 nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the Holiday Inn Norwich
(Facilities include an indoor heated swimming pool, gym & sauna)
Private coach hire from the High Lane area with Eurorider Coaches
Norwich Castle, Art Gallery & Regimental Museum
Norwich Cathedral
Bure Valley Steam Railway & Norfolk Broads Cruise
Sandringham – entrance to House, Museum & Gardens
Norfolk Lavender, with guided tour
Thursford Collection including a special 'behind the scenes' tour
This is fully booked and there is a waiting list. Final payment JULY MEETING
- Oct 16th to Nov 2nd:** The Adriatic on P&O Arcadia. 17 nights.
Ports of call:- Malaga, Zakynthos, Corfu, Dubrovnik, Venice, Malta and Cadiz.
(For e-mail recipients - CTRL+Click for [Full Itinerary](#) or [Ship Details](#))
Inside cabin from £1317 per person. - **There is very little availability for inside cabins** -
£100 per person on board credit if you have previously sailed with P&O otherwise £50.
We have one member who would like to go on the cruise and needs someone to share a cabin with her.
[Print Cruise Details - P&O website](#)

Further details will be available on the Holidays & Visits table.

Contact Margaret McDermott or Ruth Smith

Walking group

For the first walk of 2010, on January 27th twenty-two walkers braved the somewhat damp conditions for a five mile ramble led by Louanne and Peter Collins, starting from the Adlington Road car park, Bollington.

The walk took us north along the Middlewood way, then across fields, skirting Styperson Pool, climbing eventually to Long Lane. On a good day this would have given fine views across the Cheshire Plain. The evidence of mining in the area caused some interest.

The 22 walkers returned to their starting point along the canal towpath, and finished the day with a convivial lunch at the Vale Inn; an added attraction being its own microbrewery.

The February walk. Alison and Brian Allerton had a winner with this city centre canal walk. They expertly led 27 of us, along the Rochdale, Bridgewater and Manchester Ship canals from Piccadilly Station to the Lowry Theatre at Salford Quays.

Students of industrial heritage had a field day as we passed a series of canal locks, mighty rail bridges, lifting and swing bridges and the massive array of docks. There were touches of human interest too, from the horse assistance posts and stones grooved by tow ropes, to the old lock-keepers house.

But modern architecture was around too, from the new footbridge by Piccadilly Station, reflected views of the 711 foot high (235m) Beetham tower block, to the varied shapes by the Lowry Centre. Even wildlife was not entirely absent. No promised herons, but a cormorant and a pair of (bald= white faced) coots swam amongst the Canada geese, herring gulls and a swan.

After a fascinating 4 miles, we happily went our various ways; to the outlet shops, the many eating places, perhaps the War Museum or the metro back to town. There is no truth in the rumour that Sam brought us back in his stretch limo!

Very many thanks to Alison and Brian.

The next two walks are:

March 31st Led by Steve Reynolds. 6 mile walk around Thorpe in Dovedale. Meet at Village Hall 9.30am. We will be parking at the Ilam NT car park so one person in the car needs to bring a NT membership card for free parking. No serious gradients unless the more active wish to ascend Thorpe Cloud. Packed lunch required. If the weather is poor there will be an alternative local walk in Marple/Mellor of similar length.

April 28th Led by Walter Mason. The intention is to walk up Shutlingsloe from Wildboardclough. Not a long walk - only 3/4 miles - but a fairly tough climb to the rocky top (about 700 feet of ascent), with plenty of rests and lovely views. Meet at 9.30am, hopefully with a pub meal afterwards (not checked yet).

Contact Walter Mason

--ooOoo--

Philosophy group

The group is looking for additional members. Contact Liam Canavan if you are interested.

The group met on Monday 15th February. The topic was Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs.

Maslow's premise was that only unsatisfied needs motivate people.

The hierarchy starts with the basic needs for shelter, food etc. and proceeds to the esteemed needs--the need to feel good about one's self and to feel that others recognize your worth.

The top need is Self-actualization. This level is where a person is always to improve, to learn new things, to appreciate the finer things in life and at times to stand in awe at the beauty of nature.

The hierarchy can also be used to trace the development of humans from their primitive state i.e. the need for the basics of life right up to the present and the advantages we have to develop our potential.

Future topics will be ' Reflective Equilibrium', which is how we hold the values we possess; the 'Meaning of life' and 'Multiculturalism'.

Contact Liam Canavan

Discussion Group.

On the 27th Jan. Sonia introduced the subject of "Population increase". The discussion started with the increase in the world's population, i.e. currently 100 million per annum and increasing year on year.

Unfortunately resources are not increasing, land availability increases only because forests are being cleared thus decimating wild life and destroying ecologies and natural habitats. Also water and food production cannot keep up with demand. This obviously has led to and will lead to conflict between peoples and eventually may develop into global conflict. We then discussed overpopulation closer to home and how it affects people in this country. It seems that our population is increasing by immigration. We've all been told how our population is getting older because of modern medicine, better nutrition, better housing etc. and some people forecast a nation where the majority will be unable to support themselves. Any solutions? None that is acceptable either to Governments or citizens. It is a very complex subject full of problems with some practical, commonsense answers but nevertheless unacceptable solutions. To some Leaders controlling the birth rate is not open to discussion. To other national Leaders it is not a practical proposition especially with populations of over one billion. To others it is not culturally or traditionally acceptable. It is like an unstoppable train.

On the 24th Feb. the topic of "Cars and their impact on society: do we need them?" was suggested by Marlene. We have all been told about the polluting effect of cars and how this contributes to global warming which can have disastrous consequences. They also require that enormous amounts of land be concreted over to provide roads and parking places. They also provide a very convenient way of getting from place to place especially Supermarkets which could not exist without the car and we would be forced to shop in the high street again. Cars are also responsible for much employment with important contributions to the national economy. But nationally and globally they are also responsible for thousands of deaths and injuries and that too has an effect on national economies. They are also powered by oil which is not only a finite commodity but is responsible for a great deal of international conflict. So do the pros outnumber the cons? We would require a lot more time and information to answer that question and in the end it probably comes down to personal choice.

Contact Jim McDermott.

--ooOoo--

Needlework Group

The Needlework group meets regularly once a month to exchange ideas and discuss future projects. On January 29th seven of us attended the Stitch and Creative Exhibition at Gmex where we all managed to pick up bargains which should keep us busy in the coming year. In future months we hope to create some more prizes to repeat the very successful raffle we held in November when we managed to raise £101 for the Red Cross and Macmillan Nurses. **We would welcome new members.**

Contact Marlene Brookes

--ooOoo--

German Group

The German group continues to meet most Friday mornings but our start time is now 10 o'clock which seems to suit most people better. Several members of the group will have an opportunity to practise their language skills when they take part in the Travel Group's visit to the Rhineland in May.

We would all like to send our best wishes to Charles Whittaker who has been unable to attend in recent weeks because of poor health. Charles has been a stalwart member of the group since it first started and we miss him very much.

Contact Marlene Brookes

--ooOoo--

Free On-Line Courses

The U3A in Australia is offering free on-line courses to anyone in the world.

Click [here](http://www3.griffith.edu.au/03/u3a/) if this newsletter has come by e-mail. Otherwise copy the following website address into your browser.

<http://www3.griffith.edu.au/03/u3a/>

Dining group

The Dining Group meal at the Dome - University of Derby - on Thursday 23 April is **now fully booked**.

We have 52 members dining that day- a record!!!! Due to such a large party attending, the Dome have asked us to pre-book our meal choices. **Can all members who have booked for this meal please sign up for meal choices at the U3A meeting on Wednesday 10th March.**

Menus will be available at the Dining group table in the main hall.

Members to note that this meal will be 12 noon for 12.30pm- a change from our usual timings.

A venue for the June meal is being investigated but has not yet been decided. It will be an early evening meal to take advantage of the longer evenings.

Further details will be available at the March U3A meeting.

Contact Margaret Meekley

--ooOoo--

Intermediate Bridge and Churches & Pubs groups

Please note that as Steve has taken up the position of chairman there have been changes of leaders.

Intermediate Bridge - John McCartney and Frank Catterall

Churches & Pubs - Paul Kenneth

--ooOoo--



FRIENDS OF HIGH LANE PARKS



As you may be aware the Friends of High Lane Parks have been working hard for the past eighteen months to obtain funding to finance our project to regenerate the junior playground on High Lane Park. We are delighted to announce that we have secured a grant of £48,500 from the Big Lottery's Community Spaces programme.

I wish to personally thank High Lane U3A for the encouragement and support you have given to our group and this project.

Work should commence in early summer and be completed in time for the summer holidays. To celebrate we are planning a launch party in the park and the Village Hall on Saturday 17th July. We very much hope you will be able to attend along with lots of grandchildren!

We are also asking for volunteers and groups to take part on the day. If you are able to help in any way please contact me.

It just remains for me to thank you again for your continued support and look forward to seeing you on 17th July 2010

Yours Sincerely
June Gibbs
Friends of High Lane Parks

As the editor will be back from holiday for the next newsletter would you please send contributions to Jean as usual by the end of March.