

# HIGH LANE U3A NEWSLETTER



[www.highlaneu3a.org.uk](http://www.highlaneu3a.org.uk)

January 2013

After all the hype – the world has not ended!  
We would like to wish you all the best for the New Year, peace and prosperity to everyone.

The committee are pleased to announce that the High Lane U3A annual subscriptions will remain at £7 for 2013. These will be due at the Annual General Meeting in February 2013.

Goodbye from Jean, who has been the editor of this newsletter for some time and hello to Diane Saxon who has kindly offered to edit the newsletter from henceforth. Thanks to all group leaders and members for contributions past and all that are to come. Diane can be contacted on :-

[newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk).

Please make sure all contributions are sent to Diane for the next newsletter by Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

## CROWN GREEN BOWLING



## AUTUMN PAIRS COMPETITION

We had a really fun day in October when we played our Autumn Pairs competition at the Torkington Park Bowling Green on our usual Thursday morning. We drew for partners in an open competition and were blessed with yet another fine and dry day, this was enjoyed by everyone. Also, many thanks to Len Wilson who organised the Round Robin play for the morning. The pair who came out with the top scores, were Geoff Fogg and Eric Smith and each will keep the Trophy for 6 months and return it to the group for the next Autumn competition in 2013.

Margaret Evans - Group Leader

## Churches and Pubs

### Proposed visits for 2013

April 3<sup>rd</sup> St Mary and All Saints. Great Budworth, Cheshire

May 1<sup>st</sup> St. John the Baptist. Ault Hucknall, Derbyshire

June 5<sup>th</sup> St. Leonard. Downham. Lancashire

July 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Margaret's [The Marble Church] Denbighshire

September 4<sup>th</sup> St. Peters Prestbury. Cheshire

October 3<sup>rd</sup> Southwell Minster. Southwell Notts

November 6<sup>th</sup> St. Mary Tissington. Derbyshire

**St Peter's Church, Hope, Derbyshire** - Church/Pub visit Wednesday 7th November



A grey start to the day which gradually improved as we drove along Rushup Edge. The ridge between the Edale and Castleton valleys showed to perfection - Mam Tor, Back Tor and Lose Hill, then Win Hill in the distance looking like a witch's hat. Hope village centre, with church, pubs, shops and cottages was bathed in sunlight. St Peter's is a gritstone church, built in perpendicular style in the 1300's (Chaucer's time). It has a tower with a broach spire and quite a long chancel.

The site goes back to the Royal Hunting Forest of Saxon times and is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. They then had a church, a priest and six hamlets. It is assumed the present building is on the same site. In the 16th century the roof was raised to let in more light hence the clerestory and timber roof. In 1882, the then Vicar Henry Buckston demolished the chancel interior without permission and was required to make good so he recycled the box pews in the choir stalls, put in a tiled floor, and there is some carving by the "mouseman". The beautiful East window is a memorial and the others here are by Kempe & Son, telling the story of Holy Week. There are many interesting things to see, including a Breeches' Bible using one of the earliest translations from Latin and a fine pulpit from around the same time, 1887. Above the main door on the south side is a Parvise, originally a room with a fire for the curate. Outside are some fearsome looking gargoyles, remains of a market cross and Saxon cross stump from Eccles hill top. The new roof is steel, not lead and sadly the church lost its silver during a Wakes Week robbery in 2011.

Many thanks to the former vicar and church warden for their time, and to Paul for this and all visits this year. We had a good and well organised lunch and guess what? It was still a grey day when we got home having enjoyed Peak District sunshine.

Valerie Crowther

### Churches and Pubs Group - October 3<sup>rd</sup>. All Saints, Siddington. Cheshire



Wonderful! What a delight to receive such a welcome from the 'Corn Dolly Man'. This must rate as one of our most entertaining and enjoyable church visits. Our guide Raymond Rush made us laugh and smile as he spoke so enthusiastically about the church he has made his own, and decorated to perfection with corn dollies of every shape and size. We were fortunate to see the church fully decorated for harvest. It had been brought up to date with Olympic rings, 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee and a corn dolly clock. He explained the significance of the corn and its importance in fertility. So much to see and hold our interest. Built in 1521 {and maybe earlier} with an original wattle and daub and thatched roof. The roof was replaced in 1700's and a much heavier roof installed, which is still there. The wooden pillars are made of solid oak. When it was realised that the new roof was too heavy for the walls the wattle was encased in local hand made bricks at a cost of £22-10-6d! A recent addition in 1996 is the animal window to commemorate the annual services held each June. I could go on and on but many of us left saying we must come again. So why don't you go too. The church is always open.

Betty Upham

### Science and Technology Group



On 21 November, seven members of the group visited the Organ Heritage Centre run by the Lancastrian Theatre Organ Trust in Eccles. The Trust was formed in 1968 by volunteers with an interest in preserving the Wurlitzer pipe organ in the Odeon Theatre, formerly the Paramount Theatre, in Manchester. The Heritage Centre was created in a disused Sunday School building in Peel Green Eccles and now boasts an Art Deco style theatre complete with chandeliers and red drapes which seats over 80 people. The theatre houses one of the very first Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organs to be installed in this country, the organ originally installed in the Trocadero Theatre, Liverpool, and later in the Gaumont Cinema, Dingle, Liverpool. The Heritage centre stages a concert on the Wurlitzer organ every Wednesday and members were treated to a variety of music played on the Wurlitzer by Michael Wooldridge which included medleys of music from West Side Story, Ivor Novello and Nat King Cole and finished with a stirring rendition of Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance march. After the concert members toured the museum in the basement where we explored the innards of the organ and gained a sense of how the music is produced.

The LTOT owns a number of organs including the magnificent Wurlitzer in the Ballroom in Stockport Town Hall. This organ was originally installed in the Odeon Theatre in Manchester and later in Manchester's Free Trade Hall. When the Free Trade Hall was closed the Wurlitzer was removed and restored and rebuilt by the volunteers of the LTOT and successfully installed in the ballroom of Stockport Town Hall, opening in 1999. The Stockport organ is acknowledged as one of the best theatre organ installations and is in frequent use. LTOT runs a monthly lunchtime concert on the last Monday of each month where visiting organists offer a variety of musical genres. The Trust also saved the Compton organ from the Davenport theatre when it was demolished in 1999 but this is currently in storage and not in use. Stockport is well provided with theatre organs as there is a Compton organ installed in the Plaza in Mersey Square.

Lancastrian Theatre Organ Trust website [www.ltot.org.uk](http://www.ltot.org.uk) i

Michael Wooldridge's web site <http://www.michaelwooldridge.co.uk/index.htm>

The Science and Technology group is run by Chris Gibson. Contact Chris for details.

**Diane Saxon**

## **DISCUSSION GROUP**

On the 28th November the topic introduced by Marlene was "The future of retailing in Britain". Is there a future for local retail shops or is a combination of supermarkets, domestic refrigerators and freezers, ordering on line, lack of adequate parking facilities, high rates and rents an obstacle which is proving to be insurmountable? Well, supermarkets have been with us for many years, mail order trading has been with us for a longer period and we have been using fridges and freezers for decades. It does seem that the decline in High Street retail businesses has been caused by the growth and wide variety of goods available in the supermarkets; also the availability of personal transport with the provision of car parking facilities at the supermarkets. Parking is often not conveniently available near the High Street. Also the supermarkets have the ability to offer goods at prices which retail shops cannot match. The internet is also a factor to be taken into account, (as some of our members attested), as it can be used for the purchase of all manner of goods including groceries but it does require a computer. Some of our members suggested that major factors in the decline are the exorbitant rents and rates which mean that a retailer has to find a considerable sum of money before he/she can start to make a living. The businesses which seem to thrive on the High Streets of Britain are the Charity shops and the Pound shops; nationally Oxfam occupies more shop space than most other retail businesses in Britain. So it does seem that the decline will continue unless one can find something to sell in which the supermarkets cannot compete such as arts and crafts, personal services such as hair dressing etc. But without reductions in the rents and rates it may be that the future of retail in the U.K. will not be in the High Street.

Jim McDermott



## **HOLIDAYS GROUP**

### **Proposed holidays and visits for 2013**

April 9th	<b>ERDDIG</b>	National Trust Members £18 Non-members £26 Deposit £10 at January meeting
May 1st-7th	<b>DRESDEN</b>	Balance at January meeting We have a cancellation for a single room. Anyone interested please see Margaret McDermott
Sept.2nd-6th	<b>BELFAST</b>	Flight from Manchester 4 nights Half Board at Park Inn Hotel £405 - Single Supplement £64 Visits to Titanic Exhibition Giant's Causeway (National Trust Members free /approx. £7 per visit) Mount Stewart House Deposit £50 at March meeting
Oct.18th-21st	<b>LONDON</b>	Coach from High Lane 3 nights Half Board at Holiday Inn Heathrow £289 Single Supplement £60 Includes best seats at a Theatre for a Musical Most Museums in London are free but there is a charge for visiting Westminster Abbey; the Tower of London; St. Paul's Cathedral etc. Deposit £50 at March meeting

## The Plaza



In November 40 of us had the opportunity to step back into the opulence of the 1930s. The Plaza super cinema and variety theatre opened on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1932, its design based on the Regal in Altrincham and one of ten “in the greater Manchester circuit”. It was a welcome escape from reality for the mill workers of the town. The luxurious and fantastic surroundings were created by neo-classical, Egyptian and art deco architectural influences, illuminated by a Holophone lighting system which employed 6,000 light bulbs around the auditorium in three base colours which could be combined to create the colours of the rainbow. For thirty years it filled a necessary part of Stockport entertainment but with the advent of television and large cinema chains audiences declined and in 1965 it was sold to the Mecca group for conversion to a Bingo hall. When its days as a bingo hall came to an end decay set in...

The plaza had been identified as the best surviving super cinema in the north of England and was listed grade 2\* by English Heritage. A dedicated group formed the Stockport Plaza Trust and was able to reopen the venue in 2000. In the ensuing years hard work and fund raising, mainly by volunteers, has enabled the glorious features of the auditorium to be restored. Additional facilities such as a lift and modern bar have been installed. We were conducted on a full tour including the projection room and back stage, the highlight being a musical entertainment on the original Compton organ (with an appropriate lighting accompaniment). We ended the visit in the popular restaurant for delicious sandwiches and scones with cream. Our thanks to the knowledgeable guides and to Margaret for organizing this trip which was certainly in the “not to be missed” category.

Louanne Collins

## GARDENING REPORT 21ST NOVEMBER 2012



Irene Chappell hosted this meeting for 8 of us. Time was spent on a programme for 2013, and the venue for a Christmas lunch, leaving minimal time for garden discussion. Happily the weather brightened for a quick visit to the secret garden in Torkington Park, and a view of Irene (and Sam's) attractive wide garden.

Walter Mason

## OPEN GARDENING GROUP PROGRAMME 2013

January 9th	Gardeners Question Time	An opportunity to ask questions and share knowledge to solve our gardening problems.
February 13th	"Life of a Tree Surgeon"	A talk by David Myers of Myers Tree Care
March 13th	"Three contrasting southern gardens"	An illustrated talk by Jane Allison on different aspects of planting at Sissinghurst, Scotney and Great Dixter.
April 10th	Outing to Harlow Carr RHS Gardens - Harrogate	

Meeting starts 9.45a.m. for coffee and chat, meeting begins 10.00 a.m.

Jean Parrish

## High Lane Art Group



It's coming towards the end now of our second year of the art group. It has been a brilliant year, a very busy programme of art this year of all varieties. It's not just painting by numbers any more. Everybody is now becoming braver in their techniques and styles, and the use of different mediums with amazing results. From our move into the Big Hall early 2012, our membership has increased from the 25 intended to currently 32 budding & competent artists. I feel we could cope with a few more people so please contact me or other art group members, if you are interested. I would like to thank the stalwarts who come early every week to set things out it's a great help for the old dog whoever he is.

We certainly know how to get through the chocolate biscuits at brew time, and custard creams come a close second. Thanks to everybody who made the teas at brew time this year. Brew time is the time when all artists look at the work of others in the group, everybody is very polite! I have worked with the group through the year without a break, I found in August it did become quiet with fewer attendees.

The High Laners certainly have some super holidays. So I propose we have a month off in August 2013 and have a Christmas shut down as well. This year once again we have had visiting artists with great results and fun. After his demonstration and instruction to us, a portrait session, one chap played the piano to us all whilst we worked. Using me as a model, 25 images of me – can you imagine! Great amusement! All very entertaining! We have just had a Christmas carol singalong with another visiting artist. Another very good artist from Macclesfield came to see us. The work he demonstrated to us, a landscape was really good. This finished with me buying the original off him at a very good price, We had an in-house raffle for this work and somebody won with a £3 ticket. His work goes from hundreds to thousands, so a great bargain. It is our intention to have more visiting artists this coming year. Also to have more trips to galleries or exhibitions in the country. And maybe have a weekend away painting somewhere, maybe the coast? Possibly we should also have a critique session, to look at our art work constructively. A friend of mine, a great artist, has said that she will look forward to doing it for us, and maybe a work session as well. Onwards and upwards, it's been great in the big hall 2012. Looking forward to 2013.

Brian Chadwick

## Shakespeare Play Reading Group

This new group has now met twice and managed to complete the reading of **The Tempest**, one of Shakespeare's later plays. "The Tempest" is a terrible storm which batters a ship returning from Tunis to Naples, on board is the Duke of Milan and the King of Naples plus others. They are unaware that the Tempest was caused by the magic of Prospero who, along with his daughter Miranda, lives on the island where the survivors are forced to land. 12 years earlier Prospero had been usurped as Duke of Milan by his brother aided by the King of Naples, and cast adrift with Miranda to land on a strange island inhabited by Caliban (half human half savage) and the spirit Ariel.

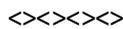


Prospero is the powerful central character of the play which focuses on his relationships not only with Miranda (who falls in love with Ferdinand, son of the King of Naples), but also the enslaved Caliban and the spirit Ariel. Also the desire for revenge against those he perceives have wronged him, runs through the play, although in the end he relents. He abandons the magic, forgives his enemies, frees Ariel, leaves the island to Caliban and sails back to Italy to resume his dukedom. The Tempest is quite a difficult play to understand and interpret. Prospero's motives for his various actions are sometimes difficult to follow, and he does not always come across as a character deserving of sympathy. Nevertheless, we all enjoyed reading and discussing the play which has some superb lines:

- **We are such stuff As dreams are made on; and our little life Is rounded with a sleep**  
*Prospero (Act 4)*
- **How many goodly creatures are there here! How beauteous mankind is! O brave new world, That has such people in it!** *Miranda (Act 5)*

The next meeting will be January 14 - **Love's Labour's Lost**

Steve Reynolds



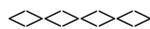
## GERMAN GROUP



We concluded our year's activities with a pre Christmas lunch at the Wycliffe Hotel in Edgeley on 30th November and then, two weeks later with a seasonal gathering where we sampled the delights of a German Christmas including Gluehwein, Stollen and Lebkuchen whilst reading of the miseries of a baker's apprentice in Bavaria in the run-up to

Christmas. Our next meeting will be on 11th January

Marlene Brookes



## NEEDLEWORK GROUP

At the November meeting we held a sale of handmade Christmas cards and small present items which proved to be very successful.

We also held our annual raffle, this time in aid of the Parkinson's Society and were able to send a cheque for £75 to this good cause.

The timing of our next meeting has yet to be arranged.



Marlene Brookes

## Walking Group Reports

### 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012

A group of 20 followed Noel and Pat's walk from Gawsworth. It traversed pleasant paths through flat Cheshire fields, with many ponds, bisected the New and Old Gawsworth Halls, and joined a long field boundary with distant views of Macclesfield Forest, Croker Hill, and The Cloud. After a stepped approach to the Macclesfield and Leek canal, and a coffee stop in sight of Sutton Reservoir, the route returned across fascinating



preserved stretches of the once much larger Danes Moss, before heading back to Gawsworth and the welcoming bustle of the Harrington Arms. The tables were plain, but the tasty food was piping hot, and before us in no time. At times the sun had been dazzling, a far cry from recent downpours, which had left some sections quite wet and rather heavy going, but Pat and Noel had chosen the route and pub well, and we all thanked them for a most enjoyable walk.

### Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December



For our last walk in 2012, Richard and Susan Clark took us on a very pleasant round trip from Disley. We went through 450 year old St Mary's churchyard, and followed easy tracks to Cockhead Farm, by the reservoirs built by Stockport in the late 1800's, before following Bollinhurst Brook down to Parkgate. Then we climbed the grassy path to Lyme Cage, and on to a break overlooking the Hall, before taking the level track to East Lodge and Bollinhurst Bridge. Just occasional slippery bits, then it was all easy downhill along Green Lane, and past the Quaker House to the White Horse. There 19 of us enjoyed the 2 for £12 offers, and the Clarks and the group leader were thanked for their respective efforts, on the day and during the year. The threatened rain had held off until we were almost home, so it was a very satisfying end to 2012 walking. Thanks to all the 2012 walk leaders, and for everyone's support during the year.

***Walking Group 2 Nights Away Break, 30 Jun to 2 July, 2013 in Keswick. Cost £114 per person ( £30 extra for singles). For details of accommodation and walks contact Walter Mason.***

Walter Mason

### Strollers Group



The Strollers will commence strolling again on Monday 28th January 2013. Meet at the High Lane Village Hall at 9.45am. The walk will be approximately one to one and a half hours long (easy walking) usually in the High Lane or local area and we try to avoid hills!! Members are welcome to lead walks if they wish, everyone welcome.

June Gibbs

## Ballet Appreciation Groups 1 & 2

A rare discovery from Cambodia, Lemonade and Spaghetti salesmen, and a butterfly, were just part of a programme of dishes served up for the October and November meetings.

### **Meetings 05<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> October**



1. **“Dancing Across Borders”** - Performed by the Northwest Pacific Ballet

On a trip to Angkor Wat in Siem Reap Cambodia in January 2000, the film maker Anne Bass a long time patron of dance, discovers a 16 year old boy Sokvannara Sar dancing with a traditional Cambodian dance troop. Impressed by his charm and grace as a dancer she invites him to go to America and study ballet. This documentary follows his journey from the serene countryside of southeast Asia to the stage of the Pacific Northwest Ballet.

2. **“Airs”** - Performed by the American Ballet Theatre, Choreography by Paul Taylor, Music by Handel.

There is no story attached to this performance, just a beautiful serene ballet danced to a lovely piece of classical music.

3. **“Le Papillon” (The Butterfly) Pas De Deux** - Performed by the Kirov Ballet

The Pas De Deux from “Le Papillon” is a short but very romantic piece from the second act of the original ballet.

### **Meetings 02<sup>nd</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> November**

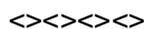
1. **“Napoli”** - Performed by the Danish National Ballet

The ballet is the story of Teresina, a young Italian girl who falls in love with a fisherman Gennaro. The appearance of a lemonade seller a spaghetti salesman and an attempted suicide all add to the plot. But like all good fairy tales the lovers are eventually married.

2. **“Profile of Zizi Jean Maire & Roland Petit”** - Documentary

This is a documentary of the French choreography & Dancer Roland Petit and his wife the ballet dancer Zizi Jean Maire. From Margot Fonteyn to Fred Astaire, Roland Petit has danced with and choreographed for many famous people from the world of ballet and films. This is a documentary to simply sit back and enjoy

Sheila Hall



*As is usual at the beginning of the New Year 'I felt like my body had gotten totally out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and start exercising. I decided to take an aerobics class for pensioners. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But, by the time I got my leotard on, the class was over.'*

## THE READING GROUP

Our book for December was "Anything Goes" by Lucy Moore, a biography of the Roaring Twenties which received a very mixed reception from the group, some of whom never bothered



books www.fotosearch.com

to finish it. It was an account of some of the varied personalities and movements which shaped the age, and included chapters on some of the well known characters associated with it, including Al Capone, Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald, Charlie Chaplin, Gene Tunney and lesser known socialites such as Harry Crosby. The description of their hedonistic lifestyles makes our age seem almost puritanical in comparison. Lucy Moore also included a chapter on the Ku Klux Klan which was a much more widespread movement in the 20s and not confined to the Deep South.

Although the book was very informative it was very bitty and selective, leaving out whole aspects of the age, e.g, the section on music was confined to jazz , leaving out all the great popular song composers including Cole Porter whose song gave Lucy Moore her title. Very pertinent to today was, however, the section on developments in the financial markets which led to the Great Crash in 1929 and which reflect much that has happened in recent years both in the USA and in this country.

Marlene Brookes

Sometimes we need to stop analyzing the past .. stop planning the future .. stop trying to figure out precisely how we feel .. stop deciding with our mind what we want our heart to feel and sometimes we just have to go with "whatever..happens..happens"

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**High Lane U3A Annual General Meeting will be held on  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2013. Please do come along**

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Don't forget to send all contributions for the next newsletter to Diane Saxon at [newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk) by Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013