

**\*\*\*\* VOLUNTEERS NEEDED \*\*\*\***

We require volunteers to help the committee with the organisation needed to run our Wednesday meetings. We are asking for several members to put out chairs from 1.00pm, others to serve refreshments and some to stack chairs at the end of the meeting.

We also need a volunteer to take on the position of Secretary at Committee meetings (we have only four per year!). There are over 450 members in High Lane U3A. Is there not one person among all these members who can offer to do this job?

More than 100 members usually attend Wednesday meetings so we are looking for more members to get involved in the running of our Branch of the U3A.

Margaret McDermott

**From the editor!**

Hello from me in my first edition of the newsletter. I'd like to start by thanking Jean for the excellent job she has done in editing this newsletter over the last few years.

A hard act to follow!

The next edition of the newsletter will be the May edition. Please can you get your contributions to me by Thursday 30 April? My email is [newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk).

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**ANNUAL LUNCHEON**

On Wednesday 27th February 95 members attended our annual lunch at Disley Golf Club. After an enjoyable meal with convivial company in pleasant surroundings our new chair, Margaret McDermott, presented retiring committee members with gifts in appreciation of their valued services. The afternoon concluded with raffles for the table decorations and for a variety of presents including whisky, brandy and chocolates.

## BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 1 & 2

The January meetings included a documentary and a slightly outrageous version of a very well known ballet.

- **“Jewels”** - A Documentary showing the making of this Ballet by the Paris Opera Ballet Co, Choreography by George Balanchine. This informative and enjoyable documentary of the making of “Jewels”, included extracts from the three acts of “Emeralds”, “Rubies” and “Diamonds”. Note: The full Ballet is planned for a later meeting.
- **“Carmen”** – Choreography by Roland Petit, Music by Bizet. Little introduction is needed for the story of “Carmen”, but what some of you may not know is that when Roland Petit's daring choreography premiered in London in 1949, it was one of the most reaction-evoking performances in the history of ballet. In fact, at one particular performance the audience was so horrified by the amount of skin exposed on stage and the ballet's numerous blood-warming erotic scenes that the authorities were soon calling for the banning of the show. However; I'm pleased to report there was no such outrage at the High Lane Ballet Group. The performance was thoroughly enjoyed by its worldly wise members.

Sheila Hall

## BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 3&4.

2nd January. The two groups combined to watch a suitably seasonal production of **The Sleeping Beauty**, by the Royal Ballet.

23rd Jan/6th Feb: Examples of the English style of dancing and the work of Sir Frederick Ashton: We watched **Ondine** – filmed in 1960 and showing Margot Fonteyn at her best. This was followed by **Divertissements** – a series of short pieces performed by the Royal Ballet to celebrate the work of Frederick

Ashton. The next session will look at more of Ashton's work.

On 27th January and 24th February, three members of the group went to the Plaza Cinema, Stockport for transmissions from Moscow of the Bolshoi Ballet in **La Bayadere** and **Don Quixote**. The standard of dancing was breathtaking but the cinema was nearly empty. The next screenings from the Bolshoi will be on 31 March and 18 May. Strongly recommended!

Meg Humphries.

### *The Ballet*

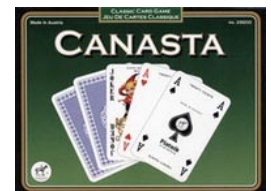
*Ballet is one of the loves of my life  
'cos it relaxes me whenever there's strife.  
As dancers move across the stage  
you see love, happiness sadness and rage.  
There's "Nutcracker" "Swan Lake"  
"Cinderella" and "Giselle"  
stories the dancers do their best to tell.  
Of course the music is to behold,  
also the composers from days of old.  
Dance styles do change after a time,  
but danced well can be still be sublime.  
There's Traditional, Contemporary  
and Modern too,  
and it's good to embrace something new.  
So, if ever you're feeling a little low,  
try watching a ballet and your cares will go.*

Sheila Hall - 2012

## CANASTA GROUP

The Canasta group meets at the Royal Oak in High Lane every Tuesday evening from 7 until around 9pm. The Group is full at the moment but if new members wish to join I will see if I can accommodate them. Please contact me.

Diane Holker



## CRAFT & NEEDLEWORK GROUP

At the November meeting we held a raffle which raised £75 and was donated to Parkinson's UK.



We received a letter of thanks from the Chief Executive including some of the following extracts: Your support is much appreciated. I'd like to share with you how your gift can transform the lives of people with Parkinson's. 85p in every pound goes to funding research scientists whose work hopefully might lead to a cure and to a better diagnosis and treatment. Gifts also fund our Specialist Nurses.

This group will next meet on 14th March at 44 Bowfell Drive. We have been having a bit of a rest in recent weeks but hope to embark soon on a joint project.

Marlene Brooks

## FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

The members of the family history group enjoy delving into the past and unearthing those family secrets. None of us have discovered noble ancestors; illegitimate children, work houses and suggestions of bigamy are sadly more common.

Those members with local family ties may consider themselves fortunate and are greatly envied by those of us whose roots are far away. Luckily these days there is a huge amount of information available via the internet and it increases almost daily. We will gladly steer you towards the best sources and, for those of you who are not confident with computers, we will guide you through the basic steps. We do not consider ourselves experts in the field but are happy to share our combined knowledge in order to help our members. We look at civil registration, parish and military records and censuses among other things. We do not spend all our time on computers, we also like to discuss progress and problems.

At one of our house meetings we asked members to bring an item of family memorabilia; the results were fascinating.

We meet on the first and third Thursday of the month (except during the summer) 4.30 – 6.30, sometimes in a computer room and sometimes in a house. We have also arranged trips out and visiting speakers. Some of our members will be attending a family history workshop in Buxton in April.

If you would like to find out more about your family and are not sure how to get started or organised do join us and let us help you.

Pat Christopher

## GARDENING GROUP

On 16 January 2013, Beryl Boswell held a friendly house meeting for seven of the group, who discussed the 2013 programme, each other's garden problems, and puzzled over a quiz and photo-collages prepared by the (absent) group leader.

On 20 February, the group visited Dunham Massey winter garden.



If anybody is interested in joining the group (especially car drivers) please contact me.

Walter Mason

## MARPLE BRIDGE AND MELLOR U3A OPEN GARDENING GROUP

Meetings are held at Marple Methodist Church, Church Lane, Marple on the second Wednesday of every month (except on excursion days). Meetings start at 9.45 with coffee; the meeting commences at 10.00 a.m. The cost is £1.50 including coffee.

### Forthcoming meetings and visits

March 13th	“Three contrasting southern gardens” – an illustrated talk on Sissinghurst, Great Dixter and Scotney by Jane Allison.
April 10th	Visit to Harlow Carr RHS Gardens, Harrogate.
May 8th	Growing Veg – emphasis on containers and raised beds by Conquest Plants Nursery
June 12th	“Late again – reliable late bloomers for every garden” Janet and Martin Blow of Special Perennials, Hankel talk about late flowering perennials.

## GERMAN GROUP

We continue to meet every Friday morning at my house, but there may be some interruptions in the coming months if I have to go down to Brighton. We continue to read and discuss a number of varied texts, including the advantages of vegetarianism (in the light of the horsemeat scandal), Richard III and most recently the problem page of a popular magazine. This is a very friendly sociable group and new members are invited to join provided they have some knowledge of spoken German.

Marlene Brooks

## HISTORY GROUP

At our meeting on 16th Jan, the topic was Sir William Marshall. Sir William Marshall (1147-1219) achieved considerable success on his own merits, not having been born in a Royal or privileged household. He was a contemporary of Richard the Lionheart and was knighted at the age of 20. He made a very financially beneficial marriage and by the time he was 42 was described as a 'great Baron'. After the death of King Richard he became a supporter of King John and on John's death acted as Regent until Henry III was able to take over the ruling of the Kingdom. On William's death he was buried as a Knight Templar.

At our February meeting, Liam gave a very interesting presentation on the history of gold, starting in 4,000BC, when the first reference to gold is made as being used in central Europe for decorative purposes. In 1091BC the Chinese made square golden coins which were used as money and in 50BC the Romans began issuing gold coins. Gold has been discovered on every continent in the world and most of the gold discovered in history is still in circulation today. There is still 80% of the world's gold in the ground.



The next meeting will be on April 10th at Irene Bentley's starting at 7.30pm and the presentation is entitled Shakespeare's World by Steve Reynolds.

Pam Curley

## HOLIDAYS AND VISITS GROUP

APRIL 9th	ERDDIG HALL and PONTCYSYLTE AQUEDUCT £18 National Trust Members. £24 Non-members. There are a few places left. Balance to be paid at March meeting.
JUNE 9th	GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY 1940s event at Loughborough. Coach and train ticket approximately £30. The train ticket entitles you to travel on any train all day with enactments at different stations along the Loughborough to North Leicester preserved railway. Deposit £10 at March meeting.
JUNE/JULY	CRUISE. Prices are beginning to reduce. We will contact interested members if a reasonable price becomes available when an early decision will be required.
SEPT 2-6th	NORTHUMBERLAND. 4 nights half board at the Vermont Hotel Newcastle. Cost £279. Single supplement £45. Visits Lindisfarne, Bamborough, Craggside and Alnwick. Deposit £50 at March meeting.
OCT 18-21	LONDON 3 nights half board at Holiday Inn Heathrow. Cost £329 Single supplement £30. Includes visits to Windsor Castle, Kew Gardens and Palace and Royal Kitchens, evening performance of War Horse at the New London Theatre, guided sightseeing coach tour of London and Blenheim Palace. Deposit £50 at March meeting.

## READING GROUP

So far in 2013 the Reading Group has read three very different books. We started with Thomas Hardy's classic *Under the Greenwood Tree* (1872) which is quite a difficult read for those of us used to more modern prose. Our discussions led to much talk about village life around the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We followed this with a very different book; *Slam* by Nick Hornby published in 2008. The book centres round the life of a rather sad young man who has imaginary conversations with Tony Hawk "the world's best skateboarder". We must admit that not many of the group managed to read the entire book. Our most recent book is *Ferney* by James Long. This was published last year and interweaves themes of history, romance and reincarnation. We would recommend this one!

Sue Dintinger

## WALKING GROUP

Wednesday 30th January 2013



Our first Wednesday walk attracted 26 walkers. Sam and Irene led the group from Bollington Recreation Ground, up to the Middlewood Way. It was bright and breezy, and the ground a bit damp as we headed North. We passed a couple of animal carvings, before traversing a rough and soggy field on the way to Styperson Pool. A narrow path led between cottages, then ascended beneath overhanging trees to skirt the former Breck Quarries.





After a break, we reached Long Lane and firmer ground, before a descent on paths and rough pastureland took us towards the canal, attractive pictorial discs indicating our way. On the towpath we soon reached Clarence Mill, and steep steps leading down to the parkland path by the River Dean (strangely the River Bollin doesn't go through Bollington!). Then the highlight of the day, as we joined the crowds in the Vale Inn, like us attracted by the locally brewed beer choices. We thank Sam and Irene for their excellent organisation, a splendid walk, and good fortune with the fine weather.

Wednesday 20th February 2013



Ruth and Dave Smith led 16 walkers from the village hall car park, on a 4 ½ mile walk exploring the

area between High Lane, Disley, Strines and Marple Ridge. On the way out of High Lane, historical interest of some old local buildings was pointed out, and Disley golf club was skirted on the way to the Peak Forest Canal, then followed to Turf Lea and a coffee stop. A succession of field paths took the group over to the Macclesfield canal, which led the group back to the village hall and an early finish. A few elected to have a carvery meal and all seemed to have very much enjoyed the walk, in spite of the cool air.

Next walks:

- Wed March 24 – Brian/Alison Allerton
- Tues April 9 – Jeff Mortimer
- Wed April 24 – Roger Drinkwater

Walter Mason

## IT BUDDIES



IT buddies is a new scheme designed to bring together members who need help with their computer and members who can offer help. Sessions would be arranged to meet individual requirements of time and content. Please contact Pat Christopher if you would like to take advantage of the scheme or offer your help.

## U3A MAGAZINE THIRD AGE MATTERS

From April 2013, the U3A magazine Third Age Matters is no longer to be provided free of charge to members. In future, magazines will be delivered direct to members' home addresses. There is a cost for this of £2.10 for five issues. You can pay this at the next meeting.

## RESEARCH INTO AGEING AT MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY

The Faculty of Life Studies at Manchester University is running a project on the effect of ageing on the senses of sight, hearing and touch. They are looking for interested volunteers to take part in testing sessions at the University. Participants will receive a small payment for their time. If you are interested in taking part you can find more details and contact information at [Ageing Research Poster](#) on the U3A website.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

13 March	General meeting – All about Eve. Speaker: Gay Rhodes
13 March	Marple Bridge and Mellor Open Gardening Group - Three Southern Gardens
14 March	Craft and Needlework Group
24 March	Walking Group
5 April	Engineering and Science Group visit to Gtr Manchester Recycling facility
9 April	Walking Group
9 April	Visit to Erddig Hall and Pontcysyllte aqueduct
10 April	General meeting – My Life in the Wine Trade. Speaker: Ian Bostock. Talk and wine tasting. Cost £2 to cover the cost of the wine or soft drink
10 April	Marple Bridge and Mellor Open Gardening Group - Visit to Harlow Carr RHS Gardens, Harrogate.
10 April	History Group – Shakespeare's World
24 April	Walking Group

27 April	U3A Peak District Family History Network workshop. Venue: The Dome, Buxton. Price £20 inc lunch, parking and a tour of the Dome. Last date for booking 6 April. Details and application form are at <a href="http://www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west">www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west</a>
10 May	Closing date for entries for the photography competition for the 2014 Third Age Trust calendar.
23 May	North West AGM and Festival. Venue: Chester Cathedral. Address from Barbara Lewis, new chair of Third Age Trust, presentations, tours and organ recital. Cost £5.

If other group leaders would like to include their events and meetings here please let the Editor know.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The August meeting is a debate "That Britain should leave the European Union". This debate was arranged when members were enthusiastic about Steve Reynold's suggestion. It is a subject that affects us all, and there is talk of a national referendum on the issue when we will be able to give our views. Now it is time for some enthusiastic volunteering - either to speak in favour of the motion or against; whether willing to give a pre-prepared topic, or happy to give a short impromptu contribution from the floor. So don't be afraid to nail your colours to the mast one way or another. Most parties are split on the issue so it is not really a political topic. So don't be shy - let's have lots of volunteers!

Just contact Walter Mason with your suggestions

Don't forget to send all contributions for the next newsletter to me at [newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk) by Thursday 30 April 2013. Thank you.