

**FROM THE CHAIR**

Although the weather was atrocious 122 members attended the AGM and renewed their membership. The questionnaire which members were asked to complete has produced some interesting results and requests for several new groups. We hope to produce information in a future newsletter.

Members agreed to the proposal amending the constitution to increase the number of committee members from ten to twelve.

Margaret McDermott

**SPRING**



Pancakes on Shrove Tuesday are over for another year and it has at last stopped raining every day. These are the table decorations from the Annual Lunch.

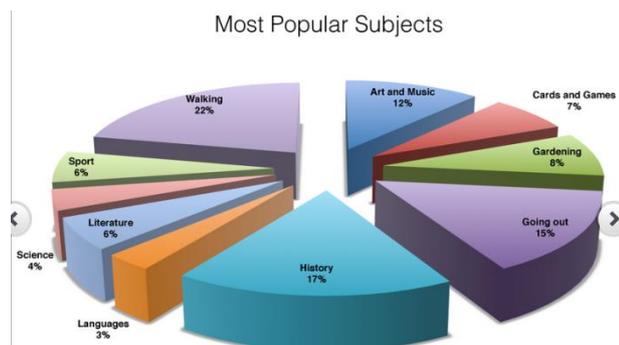
**NEW GROUPS**

Your surveys are still coming in –



please hand in yours if you haven't done so yet. It will take some time to process and analyse all this data but we have already seen quite a bit of interest in groups for bird watching, Tai Chi, quizzes and board games, French, curry, beer and wine. I'm sure there will be more in the list when we have analysed the data. However there aren't many volunteers who are willing to help set up the groups so please would you think again and if you can help to set up a group please get in touch with our groups co-ordinator, Pat Christopher.

U3A Head Office has recently conducted a survey of groups operating in U3A branches. They found that there are over 36,000 interest groups across the country. The chart shows the most popular categories of groups.



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**FROM THE EDITOR**

This is your newsletter so please help me to make it interesting to read. 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](mailto:newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk)

The next edition of the newsletter will be the May edition. Please can you get your contributions to me by Wednesday 20 April?

**ANNUAL LUNCH**



This year's Annual Lunch took place on Tuesday 4 March at Disley Golf Club. 68 members attended and enjoyed an excellent meal and good company surrounded by spring flowers and picturesque surroundings.



**ARE YOU AN ACTIVE MEMBER?**

The origin of this poem is not easy to discover. It appears in a collection of war poems and is used with appropriate modifications as a motivational poem by organizations as different as woodcarvers, masons, scouts and the WI. In some cases it is attributed to Joseph Servocky.

*Are you an active member?  
The kind that would be missed,  
Or are you just contented  
That your name is on the list?  
Do you attend the meetings?  
And mingle with the flock?  
Do you take an active part?  
To help the work along,  
Or leave the work to just a few  
And talk about the clique?*

*There's quite a program scheduled  
That i'm sure you've heard about,  
And we'll appreciate it if you, too  
Will come and help us out.  
Are you an active member?  
Or do you just belong?*

**QUIZ: SCIENCE AND SCIENTISTS**

This time we have a Science quiz which has been contributed by Jim McDermott. There is a prize for the entry gaining the highest score. Each correct answer will score one mark. In the event of a tie the winner will be chosen at random from the entries with the highest score. The decision of the judges is final. Please send your entries to Jim at [liljim@btinternet.com](mailto:liljim@btinternet.com).

1. Who was Britain's first female astronaut?
2. Who solved Fermat's last theorem?
3. Which biologists' notes on a key aspect of DNA were misappropriated denying here official recognition and a share of a Nobel prize?
4. Who is considered to be the father of modern genetics?
5. Which famous scientific genius spent many futile years searching for the mythical philosophers' stone?
6. Who was awarded the first Nobel prize for Mathematics?
7. This year is 2014 in denary. What is it in binary?
8. Who invented Radar?
9. If a person weighs 144 lbs on Earth what would they weigh on the moon?
10. Who was the scientist with a nose made of silver?
11. Who composed a song which includes all the elements in the periodic table that were known about at the time?
12. Who devised the Periodic Table?
13. Fleming discovered penicillin but who developed it as an injectable antibiotic?
14. Has any individual ever been awarded two Nobel prizes? If so, who?
15. Where would you find an event horizon?
16. Who founded weather forecasting on an organized basis and so laid the foundations of the Meteorological Office?
17. Who tried unsuccessfully to introduce the concept of hygiene into maternity wards where unhygienic practices were causing the deaths of patients?
18. Which scientist lived with chimpanzees in order to study them?
19. Which film star invented a radio technique which is used by the military and the public?
20. Who has been described as the first computer programmer?

**MONTHLY MEETINGS**

At the January meeting, Barbara Ludgrove gave an amusing and informative talk entitled Inn Signs and their stories. Accompanied by a wealth of photographs, Barbara explored the history of pub signs and how they have tracked British history.

The programme of meetings for the rest of 2014 is

12 March	Des Winterbone "THE INDIAN TUDORS"
9 April	Joan Walker, Christopher Ellis, and THE ROBIN SINGERS"
14 May	Janet Bradshaw "SWEET MEMORIES"
11 June	Robby Robinson "AVRO 1 WOODFORD"
9 July	Swasie Turner "OVERCOMING ADVERSITY"
13 August	Lord Garfield – Davies "THE WORK OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS"
10 September	David/Anna Drackley "TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED"
8 October	Pennant Roberts "A CURE FOR NOSTALGIA"
12 November	Sue Beesley "HERBACIOUS PERENNIALS AND ALL ROUND COLOUR"
10 December	Peter Turner "MISDIRECTION" (A MAGIC PRESENTATION"

**VILLAGE HALL CHARITY CONCERT**

The recent Harmony Revival Matinee Concert was a great success despite the thunder & lightning which battered the park, soaking our wonderful supporters, many from U3A. Funds raised were shared between the hall & Harmony for the Parkinson's Society. Thanks to everyone who participated in this very worthwhile event. Harmony Revival will be presenting a Christmas Concert on Friday December 5th so make a note in your diary "not to be missed".

The Village Hall is holding a table top sale later this month – see the events list for more details.

**STOCKPORT FLAG**



FLAG is an independent service that puts people in need of practical or emotional help and guidance in touch with those local organisations best able to provide it. We are your link to the health and social care services provided by a consortium of independent voluntary organisations in the area, as well as the services provided by Stockport Council.

Whatever you are concerned about talk to FLAG first. If help exists locally, we will find it for you. Our service is free, informed and confidential. Contact us on 0161 474 1042.

You will also find lists of many local activities on the FLAG web site at <http://www.stockportflag.org.uk/>

**WATCH THAT TEMPER!**

People are five times likelier to have a heart attack in the aftermath of an angry outburst, a new study suggests. Researchers also found that the risk of suffering a stroke was three times higher during the two-hour period immediately after an attack of rage. They say although the raised risk linked to a single outburst is relatively low it can accumulate, suggesting that those with a quick temper could be more prone to a heart attack or stroke.

Researchers analysed data from nine separate studies involving thousands of people, and reported their findings in the European Heart Journal. The team found that among people with low cardiovascular risk who were angry just once a month, one extra heart attack a year per 10,000 people could be expected. Among those at high risk, including those with a history of heart disease, the risk was four times higher. But with the risk being cumulative, the researchers calculated that having five angry outbursts a day would result in about 158 extra heart attacks per 10,000 people a year among those with a low cardiovascular risk. Among people with a high risk, that number of daily episodes of rage would result in around 657 extra heart attacks per 10,000 annually, they said.

From a report published by the Press Association 5 March 2014

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**HIGH LANE U3A HAPPENINGS**

4 March	Annual Lunch. Disley Golf Club. Tickets £16 on sale at January meeting.
6 March	Family History meeting
12 March	Monthly meeting. Des Winterbone "The Indian Tudors"
12 March	Marple and Mellor Garden meeting. Making the Most of your Garden Space. Talk by Jane Allison
19 March	Gardening group visit to Quarry Bank Mill. Contact Walter Mason
20 March	Family History meeting
20 March	Photography group. Exploring your camera
26 March	Walking group
9 April	Monthly meeting. Joan Walker, Christopher Ellis, And The Robin Singers"
9 April	Gardening Myths explained by Britain in Bloom RHS judge David Blelowski
29-31 June	Walking group away break to Llangollen.

**U3A NORTH WEST REGION ACTIVITIES**

<http://u3asites.org.uk/code/u3asite.php?site=421&page=3>

24 March	U3A Explores Science. Royal Institution, London. Limited places.
29 March	Family History day. Kendal.
4 April	Literature Day - Leap into Literature. Hoylake Community Centre
26 April	Astronomy Day. John Moores Uni.
10 June	NW Region AGM
26-29 August	U3A NORTH WEST REGION SUMMER SCHOOL. Newton Rigg College, Penrith. Full residential rate £300 (£40 early bird discount). Day rate £150 (£20 early bird discount). £50 deposit by 31 January 2014 for discount rate. Contact David Joseph <a href="mailto:davidbjoseph@btopenworld.com">davidbjoseph@btopenworld.com</a>

**FORTHCOMING HOLIDAYS AND VISITS**

Contact: Margaret McDermott or Ruth Smith

23-29 April	VIENNA 6 nights Half Board. Meet in small hall after April meeting for information.
18-22 July	LONDON. 4 nights. Half Board at the Radisson Blu Hotel Heathrow £389 approx. Single Supplement £40. Includes visits to Bletchley Park, Tower of London, Thames Cruise, Tour of Houses of Parliament, Kew, Guided sightseeing tour by coach and Theatre Visit Deposit £50
1-5 September	ENNIS. 4 nights Half Board at the West County Hotel. Flight from Manchester to Dublin. £450 approx. Single Supplement £50. Deposit £50 Includes visits to Birr Castle, Cliffs of Moher, Bunratty Castle, Flying Boat Museum and West Clare Railway
14 October	Cruise to Cyprus, Malta and the Holy Land on P&O Aurora

**LOCAL HAPPENINGS**

20 Feb -22 March	Orlando by Virginia Woolf. Royal Exchange Theatre
17-22 March	The Mousetrap. Lowry theatre.
12 March	NT Live screening of War Horse. Stockport Plaza.
15 March	Haydn's Creation. St Georges Church.
15-22 March	All My Sons. Wilmslow Green Room
22 March	Hazel Grove Orchestra. HG Methodist Church.
23 March	Table Top sale. Village Hall. From 12 noon.
27 March – 3 May	Much Ado about Nothing. Royal Exchange Theatre
28-29 March	50+ Show. Manchester Central
29 March	Stockport Symphony Orchestra
6 April	Planthunters' Fair. Bramhall Hall
11-12 April	Marple Artists annual exhibition. Methodist Church Marple.

## GROUP REPORTS

### ART

Another year gone by! We are starting to take our art seriously and this year some amazing pieces of work have been turned out – along with a lot of laughing and fun. I had to take some time out in August/Sept for a new hip joint so Brian Burke kindly stepped in to run the group. He was brilliant. He organised a competition for everybody; the subject was a seascape. Voting for the winners was done by the members of the group and Cynthia Byrne was the winning artist. Great work by everybody

Also I have to thank all the members who came in early to set up the chairs and tables. The tea rota worked as if by magic. Thank you to all who helped

Very few people fell by the wayside this last year, so our numbers are still good. There are 34 members signed up and we are still getting enquiries so do come along if you are interested in Art & Painting. We have all the equipment so you don't have to buy anything to get started.

The group runs from 1.30pm to 4.30pm on a Thursday afternoon. Don't be shy; we are very friendly and don't bite and we will even offer you a drink & coffee+ biscuits.

For 2014 we are thinking about an awayday and a Drawing & Painting Lunch or tea out. In Spring, we have some visiting artists coming to work with us. We are also planning a work shop day from 10 - 4.00pm at High Lane Village Hall. We may also arrange some visiting local Art group exhibitions and maybe organise an exhibition ourselves.

Brian Chadwick

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### BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 1 & 2

January Meeting 2014

Prog 1

At our January meeting we enjoyed the two act ballet "La Sylphide" performed by the Royal Danish Ballet, Choreography – August Bourneville - Music by Herman Lovenskold.

The story revolves around "James" a Scottish Farmer who is about to marry his true love "Effie", but he becomes entranced by a Sylph who entices him away to the forest. Like all ballets this story has plenty of frivolity combined with love and a tragedy which befalls the principal characters, the dancing is superb and the Scottish theme adds to the enjoyment of this unusual ballet.

Prog 2

"Dance Ballerina Dance" - this very interesting documentary introduced by "Deborah Bull" and Adam Cooper" features clips from various Pas de deux. "Lynn Seymour" a veteran principal dancer at the RBC puts the two dancers through their paces, displaying the difficult choreography from well known choreographers such as Sir Frederick Ashton, Balanchine, Herman Scherman and William Forsythe, displaying both traditional and contemporary works such as Sleeping Beauty Pas de deux, The Two Pigeons and The Invitation.

February Meeting 2014

Prog 1

At this meeting we had a complete contrast to last month's ballet, La Sylphide which we all enjoyed. This month's ballet Sylvia is a story about the Greek Gods and what they got up to. The ballet features principal dancers from the Royal Ballet, no less than Darcy Bussell and Roberto Bolle, two brilliant dancers, so we knew we were in for a treat and nobody was disappointed. The dancing and the costumes were quite wonderful.

Prog 2

To finish off our afternoon we watched a 10 minute DVD of short extracts as follows:-

- Trockadero Ballet, a parody of The Signets from Swan Lake (quite hilarious)
- Beginner's Guide to Mime Swan Lake Pas de deux by the RBC (very informative)
- Royal Ballet Dancer Steven McRae in his early years at a Tap Dancing competition in Lausanne, which he won. (quite superb)

Note: There is still a waiting list for Ballet Appreciation and if anybody is interested in putting their names forward I do try to fit people in when there is somebody absent. You can ring me or speak to me at the monthly U3A meetings.

Sheila Hall

**BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 3 & 4**

In January the two groups combined to see the Royal Ballet’s production of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland, premiered in 2011.

Plans for 2014 include the Royal Ballet in Giselle, the work of choreographer Jiri Kylian with the Netherlands Dance Theatre, and a look at the Paris Opera Ballet.

Meg Humphries

**BRIDGE**

The Monday afternoon Bridge Group continues to thrive, averaging eight tables per week. Duplicate Bridge is played apart from twice a year when we have a Chicago afternoon - party time with a glass of wine/soft drink, cake and prizes. The group is now organised by 7 people (Directors) managing the session in rotation plus marking the score sheets. This system seems to be successful due to the diligent input of the Directors whose work is greatly appreciated by the other members of the group.



Glenys Pollitt

**CHURCHES AND PUBS**

The programme for 2014 starts in April.

- 2 April St Helen Sefton village.
- 7 May St Mary Nether Alderley
- 4 June All Saints Bakewell
- 2 July St Helen at Waddington nr Clitheroe
- Aug None
- 3 Sept St Bartholomew's Rippendon
- 1 Oct St Leonard Middleton
- 5 Nov St Marys Rostherene



Paul Kenneth

**CROWN GREEN BOWLING**

The winter weather has not put off the regular dedicated bowlers on Thursday morning and they have continued to turn out every week. The Tuesday group has some very keen members, but still needs more regular new players to make it a viable 'goer', so we will give it a few more months’ trial.

Our next social event of the coming season will be a Dinner in the evening during March (the date and venue has yet to be chosen) and another day out to Prestatyn during summer for a social game, as we did last year.

Margaret Evans

**DANCING**



For many years there have been two very successful dance classes – Ballroom and Latin – but things are in the process of changing. Recently a Sequence dance class has been started and in September, a fourth class will start for more experienced freestyle dancers.

So in September we will have

- **Ballroom** – High Lane Village Hall
- **Latin** – Scout’s Hut, Marple memorial Park  
Couples already on the waiting list for either of these classes will hear from me nearer the time. Other couples are welcome to apply. Contact Kath Taylor.
- **Modern Sequence** – Hawk Green Reading Room.  
For more details of this group, contact Kate Hellar.
- **Experienced dancers group**. This is still in the process of being organized. For details, contact Irene Chappell.

Kath Taylor

## DISCUSSION



On Jan 22nd 2014 the subject for discussion was: "Is intelligence the result of Nature or Nurture?" It is a question that has been asked many times and debated just as often. We started the discussion by agreeing that the health and diet of both the mother and the maternal grandmother were important contributory factors in the development of a healthy, normal foetus. It is known that the brain develops rapidly in the foetus about the 7th or 8th month and also approximately 1 year after birth. The majority of the group agreed that the major factor in the development of intelligence in a foetus is the genetic inheritance from both parents. This includes not only the genes for brain development, but also those genes for the development of the endocrine system which has a major effect on the brain's development. After discussing the necessity of suitable nourishment for the child we then talked about the mental stimulus which is required. It became evident that the important factor here was the influence of the parent(s) and the environment which they provided. "Environment" of course includes formal education which is available on many levels in our society. Since we changed the format of the discussion group's modus operandi most members came prepared with lots of up to date information but many of the quotes from the experts showed that there is no common agreement as to a definition of intelligence. It seems that intelligence is that property of brain which enables one to prepare and implement strategies for survival. To this end education, both formal and otherwise, is very important.

Education comes in many forms and need not be restricted to the formal sort with which we are familiar. As one expert put it "Experience is a powerful educator". We argued both sides of the original question but realising that we were not going to come to a firm conclusion it was decided on a vote that a majority of members were on the side of Nature as the determining factor.

## February meeting

We tried our new format once again at our February meeting. We had several items to talk so it was a very busy meeting.

We talked about the recent floods and how they have affected the people who have property or farms in the flooded regions, the part that Government and the

Local Councils have to play, the responsibilities of the Environment Agency and most important, "Who to Blame"?

We then moved onto the need for a Statute of Limitations in the cases of personalities who are accused of assaults which occurred more than 40 years ago. Why did the alleged victims wait for 40 years before complaining to the police? Incredible seems the right response to such accusations.

Next on our list was the NHS proposal to put the medical records of all patients on a central data base and put the onus on the patient to opt out. Nice one! We wondered why it was needed and for whose benefit?

Next topic was the current health scare of obesity. Who is obese and why? Is it all to be blamed on junk food? Lack of exercise? Both? Forced to buy cheap food? We didn't know but we are told that obesity costs the NHS quite a lot of money. So what is the answer?

Then the farce of Prime Minister's Question Time was discussed. Just like playtime at primary school. It seems to generate more heat than light so why do they bother? How the Speaker keeps his temper is a Master Class in self control. And these shouting, braying intolerant people are in charge of the country!

And finally we discussed the latest output from the National Office of Statistics. We are living longer! But some commentators can see only bad things arising from this. Some people will be collecting a pension for more years than they were working and contributing. Consider the burden on the NHS! These Methuselahs will be consuming scarce resources such as fuel, water, food and air, not forgetting clothes, houses etc. So it's not good news at all; it's gloom and doom, and what can be done about it?

Because the majority preferred this format the Group is to be renamed **Current Affairs**. I would also like to say that this Group is full but anybody who wants to set up another similar Group is free so to do.

Jim McDermott

**GARDENING**



A small group of 5 members visited Rode Hall to admire the snowdrop woods. An easy journey, pleasant lunches, and a first class art exhibition, combined with the varied and extensive displays of snowdrops to make it a good start to the year.

Walter Mason

**MARPLE BRIDGE & MELLOR U3A OPEN GARDENING GROUP**

In February a delightful entertainment transported garden enthusiasts from the grey skies of Marple in late winter to the blue skies of summer when a packed audience was treated to a “virtual tour” of three beautiful gardens by our speaker Walter Mason. The Dorothy Clive, Powys Castle and Monet’s garden at Giverney were the focus of the photographer’s camera, demonstrating different styles of garden - the formal and colourful planting schemes of Dorothy Clive and Powys Castle giving way to the softer and gentler palette and informal planting style of artist Claude Monet’s vision for his garden especially the famous “Lily Pond”, subject of many of his paintings.

Jean Parrish

**HISTORY GROUP**

The January meeting was a talk on Disraeli by Michael Sparrow.

Michael's presentation on Disraeli was very interesting and certainly made the group see a different side to this famous historical character. Disraeli was born in 1804 to Jewish parents of Italian descent, but when Benjamin was twelve, his father decided to have all his children baptized into the



Church of England which enabled him to become an MP in 1837: although the law was subsequently changed in 1858 to allow Jews to become Members of Parliament. In his twenties and thirties Disraeli had several affairs, always with married women who were older than himself: he must have had a great deal of charisma and charm, something which Queen Victoria obviously found irresistible. Originally, his main aim was to be a writer and he did write several novels over his lifetime. His first tenure as Prime Minister occurred in 1868 when Lord Derby, PM at that time, resigned due to ill health and recommended Disraeli to Queen Victoria to replace him: he only won one election in 1874 and became PM in his own right. He was also known for his opposition to repealing the Corn Laws and his long standing antagonistic relationship with William Gladstone. He died in 1881.

**February**



The topic for February was Daniel Foe and the Great Storm of 1703 presented by Terry Browne. Given the recent floods this topic was very apposite. Daniel Foe was born in London in 1660, changing his name to de Foe when an adult. He is best known for Robinson Crusoe and Moll

Flanders, published in 1719 and 1722 respectively. However, before this he had had a somewhat disastrous business career, having been declared bankrupt on a number of occasions. In late November in 1703 the weather had started to deteriorate with very strong winds, but on the night of the 26th November, five or six cyclones had been unleashed on Britain. The storm continued at its height throughout the night and strong winds continued for a week. It was said to be the greatest disaster for the navy and de Foe said that the city of London looked like the aftermath of a battle. Hundreds of ships and seamen were lost and one ship was reported to have been blown from the Helford River in Cornwall to Newport on the Isle of Wight. Considerable detail of this storm is known because de Foe advertised for people to send in their personal experiences of the storm and in 1704 he published The Storm, which was a composite of people's first hand experiences. The storm devastated an area south of a line from Aberystwyth to the Humber, thousands of trees were blown down and there was hardly an orchard left standing.

Pam Curley

**HOLIDAYS AND VISITS**

**Visit to Manchester Police Museum**

Our visit to the Police Museum was informative, interesting and friendly. Our Guide mentioned that the police are mainly to prevent crime, maintain order and to take offenders before a court. In the war years their job also included fire and ambulance duties.



Charles II initiated the Watchmen Scheme from this has come the police force we know today. The police (dress) uniform was based on the fashion of the day i.e. tailed coat and top hat. Today the uniform has a utility belt on which are special handcuffs and truncheon and the use of body armour when required. The tour ended and we were let out to proceed to the nearby restaurant for a very nice two course meal. Thank you to Pat Gorie for organising this visit.

Holidays in London and Ennis Ireland are currently being booked. There are more details on page 4 If you are interested, please contact Sue Harlin or Ruth Smith.

Ruth Smith

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**PHILOSOPHY**

At our January meeting Diane Saxon led a discussion on postmodernism charting its development through the work of some of the major postmodernist thinkers. There was much discussion of the existence and nature of truth and its implications for modern life.

The February meeting was led by Michael Sparrow on the topic of world views - the framework of ideas and beliefs through which an individual, group or culture interprets the world and interacts with it. We found quite a variety in the world views of our members. During Liam's absence, the group is being looked after by Michael Sparrow and Lisa Czynievska.

**PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP**

January meeting

Our "Winter" competition proved hard to judge, but Eric Smith's winning shot in Torkington Park just stood out, and there were equal seconds, another from Eric in the park, and one from Brian Beck of Hazel Grove golf course.



Afterwards, Fred Goodier led a discussion on some aspects of composition, including the merits of the rule of thirds and the golden square, and on framing through trees and arches.

February meeting

Five members of the group started with a small but fascinating competition on "Wild Birds and Animals" – 1st Brian Beck – "Otter at Chestnut Centre"; 2nd Walter Mason – "Blue Tit about to feed young".



We then discussed photographing moving objects, which led to an exploration of the many rarely used settings on modern cameras. This was a foretaste of the exercise for next month – "Exploring your camera".

Walter Mason

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**SINGING**

On our return to practices after Christmas we began work on songs from Oliver!, starting with 'Consider Yourself'. We are also learning an arrangement of 'Mack the Knife', which is from the Three Penny Opera. We have performed songs by the Beatles before, however we need to polish them and learn new ones before we include them in another concert.

There are no scheduled concerts at the moment, which is fortunate, as the photograph of Margaret shows, she has a broken arm. So with Margaret



playing with one hand & Tony with a barely recovered new shoulder we are going to carry on practising our parts so we are ready for future events.

Pam Wood

**TABLE TENNIS**

The Woodside Tennis Club group at present has no group leader. Due to health issues our last three leaders have scaled back their involvement so management of the group is very much a joint effort. We are endeavouring to resolve this situation.

The Brabyns Park Group is increasing in numbers and now has around 25/26 a session. Due to this, we have reduced the weekly fees to £1.50

Brian Burke

**WALKING**

**7 JANUARY**

For our first 2014 walk, six joined Jeff Mortimer on a 5 mile walk from Combs village, which skirted Ladder Hill, then contoured round until overlooking Fernilee, before returning by fields, and Combs Reservoir. The weather kept fine, the views were panoramic, but recent rains had left fields heavy, built up pools on Long Lane, and in particular, made the long stretch between reservoir and Meveril Brook a continuous muddy track. Perhaps the ladies were wise to miss this one! It does show that winter conditions can make our choice of route more problematic at times. But the good food in the Beehive soon revived our spirits and we could thank Jeff for his efforts.

**29 JANUARY**

Eleven members joined David Lloyd's 5 mile Poynton walk. The skies remained grey, but rain held off, as we explored the inclines of a past coal mining era, now largely vanished and pleasantly wooded. Intriguing relics were still around – ice house, munitions store,

railway curves, occasional spoil heaps and sunken pits – but so were signs of fox scratching, and impressive badger setts behind the Anson Museum. Much more prevalent, after the many recent overnight rains, was heavy ground and mud, which slowed our progress and kept our attention away from the surrounding pleasant scenery. But soon we were back and able to try out the newly refurbished Fiveways pub, where meals seemed to find favour as we thanked David for his walk.

**LATE FEBRUARY**



19 members joined David Burke, of whom 14 stayed on for a very satisfying meal in historic surroundings (complete with minstrel's gallery) at the Old Hall, Whitehough, near Chinley. Lovely views and warm sunshine greeted us, as we followed the old tramway, towards the equally impressive double railway viaduct and modern bypass. Our route undulated over pleasant pastureland, went by streams, wandered through the hamlet of Wash with snowdrops adorning the verges, and discovered quaint pathways and quiet lanes.

The walk seemed longer than David's stated 4¼ miles; or was it the tiring effect as we slowed up in the heavy going near most stiles? But we got round in time for lunch, and we certainly enjoyed the all round views featuring Chinley Churn, Coombes Edge, South Head, and Mount Famine.

Walter Mason

Please don't forget to send all contributions for the next newsletter to me at [newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk) by Wednesday, 30 April 2014. Thank you

Diane Saxon

March 2014

# HIGH LANE U3A NEWSLETTER

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

