

HIGH LANE U3A NEWSLETTER

www.highlaneu3a.org.uk



Editor: e mail: drinkwaters@ntlworld.com

September 2012

U3A – SPEAKERS – 2013

JAN 9	Mart Rodger	“My Life In Jazz”
FEB 13		AGM
MAR 13	Gay Rhodes	“All About Eve”
APR 10	Ian Bostock	“My Life In the Wine Trade”
MAY 8	Joy Bratherton	“Where Are The Lads Of The Village Tonight”
JUN 12	Bernard Loveday	“Development Of Medical Science”
JUL 10	Eric Roth	“The True Story Of ‘The Mutiny Of The Bounty’ ”
AUG 14	<i>DEBATE possible topics – the olympics were a waste of money; there should be euthanasia for over '60s; mankind is a disaster for planet earth; women are the nicer sex (OTHER SUGGESTED TITLES TO WALTER MASON. ALSO VOLUNTEERS TO SPEAK IN THE DEBATE)</i>	
SEP 11	Christine Taylor	“Laugh Lines”
OCT 9	Neil Cliffe	“How I Made My First Million – And Spent It”
NOV 13	Brian Hallworth	“In The Bleak Midwinter”
DEC 11	Peter Heaton	“Aspects of Christmas”



Ballet Appreciation Groups 1 & 2

The April and May meetings covered a varied mixture comprising; a biography, a documentary with one modern and two traditional ballets. Definitely something for everybody.

Meetings 30th March & 18th April

1. Baryshnikov Biography (2004)

Mikhail Baryshnikov, born in 1948 in Latvia. After a promising start with the Kirov Ballet he defected to Canada in 1974, for more opportunities in western dance. He is a dancer, choreographer and actor and is often cited alongside Vaslav Nijinsky and Rudolf Nureyev as one of the greatest ballet dancers in history. As far as this ballet group is concerned he is the greatest.

2. "Paquita" - Performed by the Kirov Ballet, Choreography by Pepita and Music by Minkus.

This Pas de Deaux is one of six introduced by Irek Mukhamedov, who is himself an accomplished dancer, it is renowned for its difficult steps. This gives the dancers a chance to show their virtuosity. We will, at a later date have the pleasure of seeing the complete ballet.

3. "Markitenka" or "La Vivandiere" - Performed by the Kirov Ballet

This Pas de Deaux is from a one act ballet, which has been staged by many ballet companies all over the world. This also displays once again the skill required by the performer and is one of the six still to be enjoyed.

Meetings 4th & 16th May

1. "Bring Back Balanchine" - Performed by the New York City Ballet.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the choreographer George Balanchine, the New York City Ballet embarked en bloc, to St Petersburg to perform many of Balanchine's greatest works. They performed at the famous Marinsky theatre to a Russian audience, hoping to impress, as it was twenty years since their last visit, they were warmly accepted and their dancing was superb. This documentary followed their journey and the ballet group really enjoyed this experience.

2. "L'Arlesienne" - Performed by the Paris Opera Ballet, Choreography, Roland Petit and music by George Bizet.

The Woman from Arles, **or L'Arlesienne** as it is most frequently known. Based on the haunting short story of Alphonse Daudet, the ballet is a painful reminder that some amours can never be put to rest, and with a backdrop of a Van Gogh inspired landscape, the ballet is beautifully portrayed by the dancers and the music really captured the mood.

3. "La Esmeralda" - Performed by the Kirov Ballet, Choreography by Pepita and Music by Cesare Pugni, is another excellent Pas de Deaux from the six. Today the full ballet has only been performed in USA in 2004. This ballet is inspired by Notre Dame de Paris

by Victor Hugo. Outside of Russia, Eastern Europe and New Jersey only excerpts are given. To date I have not been able to find the complete ballet

The June and July meetings included a well loved ballet with lots of fun and excellent dancing together with a mixture of modern and traditional ballet, with a quirky jazz piece thrown in for good measure.

Meetings 1st & 20th June

"Don Quixote" - Performed by the American Ballet Company, Choreographer Mikhail Baryshnikov, Music Ludwig Minkus and orchestrated by Patrick Flynn.

Based on a novel written by Miguel de Cervantes, Don Quixote follows the adventures of Alonso Quijano, who sets out to revive chivalry under the name of Don Quixote. Driven by the vision of Dulcinea, a neighbouring farm girl his lady love, the tarnished, yet inspired Don Quixote begins his adventures with his trusty squire Sancho Panza in tow.

"Marguerite & Armand" - Performed by Margot Fonteyn & Rudolph Nuryev, Choreographer Sir Frederick Ashton.

This excerpt from the ballet "Manon" was specially choreographed by Sir Frederick Ashton for Margot Fonteyn & Rudolph Nuryev. The fact that Margot Fonteyn was in her 50's when this was first performed does not detract from brilliance of her dancing.

Meetings 6th & 18th July

"Around the World in 80 Minute" (Part 2) - Performed by the Ballet Lausanne, Choreographer Maurice Bejert.

This contemporary ballet is inspired by Jules Verne and his global adventures and was the last ballet produced by the French choreographer Maurice Bejert before his death in 2007. Although Maurice Béjart uses Jules Verne's theme of a trip around the globe, he adds his own touch with memories of the countries he has visited.

"La Sonnambula" (The Sleepwalker) - Performed by the New York City Ballet, Choreographer George Balanchine, Music by Vincenzo Belini and orchestrated by Vittorio Rieti.

Set in a mysterious masked ball, the one act ballet tells the story of a poet who pays suit to a coquette, who is escorted by the host. The guests go into supper leaving the poet to himself and an apparition in white enters. She is a beautiful Sleepwalker who leaves the poet mesmerised. The plot unfolds into a sinister atmosphere of jealousy and murder as the jealous coquette informs the host of the poet's advances to her and in a rage he stabs the poet.

"Nutcracker Sweeties" - Performed by the New York Ballet, Music by Tchaikovsky, arranged by Duke Ellington.

The ballet only vaguely resembles the classical Nutcracker ballet. It is very sensual and amusing, and beautifully danced. It is set basically as entertainment for World War Two GI's, using in places, sailor and army costumes. Some of the dances are reminiscent of the Nutcracker ballet, with the women dancing on pointe and the men in their usual classical

fashion. Duke Ellington plays the music which may possibly cause Tchaikovsky to turn in his grave hearing his score jazzed up, but it's certainly different.

Sheila Hall

Bridge Group



High Lane U3A are holding a Fun Bridge afternoon for all levels of Bridge on Saturday 22nd September 2012 in High Lane Village Hall.

Start time is 2.15pm, cost £6 per person, including afternoon tea. We will be playing Chicago Pairs, a partner is required. The event is in aid of High Lane Village Hall funds. Registered charity number 520063.

There will be prizes for Bridge and also a raffle. Come along and have an enjoyable afternoon!

<><><><><><>

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP PROGRAMME AUTUMN 2012



The Family History Group will be commencing a new term in September and would be glad to see new members. Please speak to Pat Christopher or Sue Harlin if you are interested in finding out about your family history.

6 th September :	House Meeting - getting started/what next
20 th September:	School – Talk by Steve Abbott ‘the Last Drop’
4th October :	School – FreeBMD for new members ; Historical directories for experienced
18 th October;	School – Ordering certificates + Cheshire BMD,
1 st November;	House – Unusual occupations; exploring new web sites and progress reports
15 th November;	School – Interpreting census information; using ancestry and findmypast
29 th November	TBA

6th December

House – Round up and Christmas party

Churches & Pubs

St. Nicholas' Church High Bradfield near Sheffield. 4th July.



When we left High Lane it was raining. It rained all the way to High Bradfield but as soon as we arrived it stopped. We were made welcome by Rev. Alan Isacson who gave us a very interesting talk on the history of the Church and the local area. This was done outside the Church with a wonderful view across the valley (while it stayed fine). We then moved inside to have a look round the Church.

A Christian Church has stood on this site for around 900 years and the present building is over 500 years old. To the south lies Low Bradfield where a Saxon cross was found, indicating a Christian place of worship in the area long before the first stone-built Church in Bradfield. Until 1868 the Church of St. Nicholas, first built in 1109, was a chapel-of-ease in the large parish of Ecclesfield. Behind the Church gate stands the Watch Tower which was built, in 1831, to combat body-snatchers who needed corpses for research in Sheffield's recently founded medical schools. When you look at the roof the beams are remarkable for the 76 bosses date from the late 15th century. In the porch there are re-used sections of a medieval coffin lid showing the shaft of a Calvary cross. Inside on the south side is a slate plaque which commemorates the Sheffield flood of 1864 when the nearby Dale Dyke Dam burst and 240 people were drowned.

An unusual feature of the chancel is the sunken vestry which once provided refuge for visiting priests who might have to stay the night during inclement weather. Most of the present furniture was carved and fitted by the Sheffield wood craftsman Arthur Hayfield and his daughter Clara, in the late 19th century. After her father's death Clara continued the carving, including the five intricate panels of the pulpit which depict Christ and the four Gospel writers with their symbols.

The medieval window contains fragments of original 15th century glass with fine examples of 'silver staining'. It was put together during a large re-ordering of the Church in the late 19th century. The five bosses or balls on the Saxon cross are thought to represent drops of Christ's blood similar to consecration crosses found on some stone altars. The plain Norman font is made of magnesian limestone and has a lead-lined bowl while the Tower houses a peal of eight bells.

A very enjoyable morning was followed by an excellent lunch at The Old Horns pub in the village.

Paul Kenneth.

DISCUSSION GROUP



On the 25th July 2012 the topic for discussion was Genetic Modification of foodstuffs i.e. wheat, corn, fruit, vegetables etc., introduced by Irene Bentley. The important questions are, who is driving the research into G.M., why is it taking place, are we already eating G.M. food, who benefits, is it being done openly and are Governments monitoring the activities of the researchers? We decided that the original purpose was probably in order to improve the quality and yield of foodstuffs in the 3rd world. This would have the dual purpose of helping poor farmers and relieving the donor nations of an increasingly major burden. However, Monsanto, probably the largest G.M. researcher, developed crops that gave rise to infertile seed so that the farmers would have to buy new seed every year. So that is of little use to third world countries. The fact that all G.M research is commercially confidential means that the consumer cannot have any knowledge of the progress in this field. Are we eating meat that has been fed with G.M. food? We import quite a lot of food which may have been G.M'd. If it is in a tin how will we know? If it comes as prepared and packaged food are we informed by the manufacturer if it has been made from G.M food? Does it matter? How can we find out? We should not have to rely on the activities of the various concerned groups, we should be informed by a Government which is openly monitoring the situation and publishing the facts, acceptable or otherwise. But we are either told nothing or fed some anodyne nonsense. As is usual when the public comes into conflict with the interests of the large international companies we don't win.

Jim McDermott

ooOoo

HISTORY GROUP

The Diva and the Deadly Disease by Marlene Brookes



The diva in the presentation 'The Diva and the Deadly Disease' is the opera singer Adelina Patti,(1843-1919) born in Madrid of Italian parents. Patti played her first leading role at the age of sixteen and went on to have a very successful international singing career and a somewhat scandalous private life. However, in 1878 Patti bought a castle, Craig-y-Nos, in Breconshire as a haven from her busy professional life, employing many local people and became something of a philanthropist in the local community.

The connection between Patti and the deadly disease (tuberculosis) came after her death when the

castle was sold to a Welsh Association for the treatment of TB. In 1948 the newly formed NHS took over the management of Craig-y-Nos but by the 1960's it had become a convalescent home for patients with chest diseases rather than TB, due to the decline of this disease, eventually closing in the 1980s: it is now a hotel and conference centre.

The last meeting of the History Group on the 1st August was presented by Michael Sparrow, his subject was William Cobbett.



William Cobbett (1763-1835) was described as 'a very powerful political writer of his time'. His main concern was the plight of the common man and to ensure that injustices were put into the public domain, he published the *Political Register* in 1800 and continued to do so until his death in 1835. He had a very interesting and humorous style of writing that appealed to all, even if they did not agree with his sentiments. Cobbett had several criminal libel actions brought against him, necessitating him to move to France, America and back to England to escape the consequences, although between 1810-1812 he did spend two years in Newgate prison. He also published a series entitled *Rural Rides* drawing attention to the working conditions of the farming communities. Cobbett's political writings were very influential and encouraged others to improve the lot of the working man.

The next meeting of the History Group will be on Wednesday 5th September 7.30pm at Irene Bentley's and the topic is 'Energy from 1700' by Liam Canavan.

Gardening Group



"A house - gardening group has now acquired enough members to have a full complement, and will have its first meeting in August. Any others who are interested in gardening will now have to go on a waiting list, or start to commence a new group."

Gardening Group First Report – 15th August

Torrential rain kept us indoors, but the new gardening group had a friendly and successful first meeting, learning about each other's plant problems and discussing the way the group might operate. The next meeting, when the rest of the group return from holidays etc., will be at 2pm Wednesday, 19th September in Carol Harrison's house. Nearer the date, details will be sent to group members by email and letter.

Walter Mason

WALKING GROUP – WEEKEND AWAY



FRIDAY 6th JULY

It was raining heavily when we arrived, as 30 of us booked into the Beaufort Park Hotel, near Mold. The clouds hung low over the hills and the likelihood of the rain stopping in the next few hours seemed remote. Our walking holiday leaders - Clwydian Walking Holidays Ltd - decided to cancel walking for the day, and instead took us to St Asaph for a very interesting guided tour of the Cathedral followed by tea and cakes. St Asaph, which gained its City Status this year, has had a church, and at some time a monastery, on this site since AD 560. St Asaph Cathedral is the Mother Church of the Diocese of St Asaph, one of the six dioceses of the Church in Wales. Following tea and biscuits in St Asaph, transport was provided back to the hotel, where we were able to relax and watch the Wimbledon men's tennis semi final.

Dinner was served in a private dining room, after which there was an illustrated talk and quiz on British Birds by Martin James MIACE.

SATURDAY 7th. JULY

28 walkers assembled in the sunshine complete with packed lunch provided by the holiday company, ready to be transported to the start of our walk. The 5.5 mile with an optional



extension to 8 miles started from Moel Parc at a height over 300m giving us splendid views right from the start. The walk followed the Clwydian Way south keeping mainly at the same height until we reached the hillside car park and picnic area at the foot of Moel Arthur. Here Clwydian Walking Holidays were waiting with our coffee, tea and packed lunches. The optional return route for which most walkers opted, followed the Offa's Dyke Path and involved a couple of fairly strenuous climbs up to the top of Moel

Arthur and Penycloddiau, where we enjoyed wonderful views over the Welsh Mountains, and the Dee Estuary.

Dinner on Saturday evening was followed by live entertainment, featuring 'Muddyboots,' a group of six mature and talented musicians including Bob Eckersley, our Clwydian Walking Holiday's leader, and also including Brian Locking (bass guitarist and occasional harmonica player for "The Shadows" in 1962 –3). A thoroughly enjoyable evening of 60's style music with vocals, and rock and roll music, which brought many of our walking group on to the dance floor demonstrating lots of interesting dance steps - particularly from Ray Barratt, who

later confessed he was suffering from cramp. And where did those young ladies sounding vuvuzelas come from?

SUNDAY 8th JULY. It was another warm sunny morning but with the threat of some heavy showers, as 26 walkers set off in the minibuses to be transported to a lay-by just south of Llanferres, for the start of a 4.5 mile walk that felt like 6. This walk began with a long gradual climb heading west up towards Fron Hen before turning sharply to the northeast on a very muddy track through the woods towards Llanferres. The route then continued through fields and over a number of ladder stiles to a steep lane, which took us to the old lead mining village of Maeshafn. Here our leaders were waiting with a welcome cup of coffee or tea and the offer of transport back to the hotel for those who felt they had walked far enough. After the coffee break we began our return by walking south up through the woods and past Burley Hill Quarry and then turning west to meet our transport waiting in the lay-by on the A494. In summary, a fairly strenuous walk in quite muddy conditions but in fine warm weather, which continued back at the hotel where walkers ate their packed lunches on the hotel patio, ready to watch or listen to Andy Murray in the men's final.

SUMMARY

This was the first time that our Walking Group Leader Walter Mason had used a walking holiday company, to organise accommodation, provide transport to and from the walks, provide packed lunches and to lead the walks. Members I spoke to were generally of the opinion, that the Clwydian Walking Holiday Company had done well in coping with dreadful weather conditions on Friday, when they were forced to replace a walk with a guided tour of St Asaph Cathedral. They were praised for the choice of the walk on Saturday, the transportation arrangements, the quality of the musical and other entertainment plus the ample packed lunches they provided.

Sam and Irene Chappell

WALK REPORT 27TH JUNE 2012



Eighteen members walked on a day when the weather tantalised with hints of sunshine and threats of rain. The sun obliged on occasion but the rain held off. On assembling outside the Castleton tourist office our party proceeded through the village and began the long trek up Cavedale. After the recent heavy rains the path was running like a stream and gave us the impression we were "canyoning" rather than rambling. At the top of the dale we had a well earned coffee stop before continuing to Windy Knoll and lunch in the shelter of the quarry. One or two members of the group did think of doing a spot of caving to work their lunch off, but one look at the cave entrance soon made them change their minds. After lunch we continued past the Blue John Cavern and the Treak Cliff Cavern with "loo" and ice cream stops at both. This section of the walk presented us with panoramic views of the Hope Valley and the Great Ridge. The last part of the walk was through the fields of the Longcliffe Estate and back into Castleton.

WALK REPORT – WEDNESDAY 25TH JULY 2012



10 accompanied Alison Allerton on a very pleasant walk from Rainow church. (Brian was still recovering from a “fight” with a stone wall!). An easy pace took us to Snipe House Farm, with direction signs pointing “this way”, “that way”, and “the other way”! But we continued (“the other way”) to Lamaload Reservoir, and followed clockwise on the reservoir circuit, until branching off at Lower Ballgreave Farm in the direction of Walker Barn. A welcome lunch stop coincided with the sun breaking through, and then we had to puzzle our way through Vale Royal, where we were meant to feel like interlopers for following the path past the up-market conversions, and on above Gulshaw Hollow. After Hordern Farm, the route zigzagged down, skirted Newbuildings Farm, went over Berristal Road, and used a footbridge to cross the infant River Dean and rejoin our outward route. The 10 of us really enjoyed the attractive valleys and varied landscape of the Lamaload area, and thanked Alison for leading the walk, and giving her expert opinion on the various wild flowers on the way. Noteworthy was a rosy “bacon-and-eggs” variant of the usually bright yellow bird’s-foot-trefoil, one of the yellow-flowered peas.

WALK REPORT – TUESDAY 7TH AUGUST



Chairman Steve Reynolds took 9 walkers on a 5 mile “green” walk, starting with a succession of paths through the Ley Hey Park area of Marple, onto the canal lock staircase. Recent rain had caused a bank to collapse at lock 7, closing the canal for a time. Even more recent rain soon wet our heads, and continued till midday. Fortunately the canal path was often sheltered by trees, and the many shades of green scenery were just as attractive in the wet. We passed St. Chad’s Well, with the well dressing still looking good 12 days after flower arranging volunteers (including group leader’s wife Freda) had prepared it. Chadkirk garden was a lovely place for a coffee stop, before we continued across the newly opened bridge (for “green” cycling) and up the new bridleway towards Marple Hall. In spite of the rain, we turned back towards Otterspool to view the “green electricity” Archimedes Screw Project – completed, but not yet operational until payback terms for shareholders could be agreed. The corner at the start of Mill Lane, once heavily wooded, now looked rather desolate. Hopefully Mother Nature will soon help it recover, and hopefully the large shingle bank under the bridge won’t shift and clog the screws, as happened at New Mills. Meanwhile we continued back along Vale Road, to re-cross the new bridge, but this time to go left on the very muddy footpath past Lower Dale Farm, and then the track which passes Marple Dale Hall. Distant glimpses of Oakwood Hall aroused our curiosity – a fascinating history - mill owner’s place, girls school, TPT acquisition, grammar school – now beautifully renovated, and currently

yours for a cool £1,850,000! Then we were soon back to Steve's house. The walk seemed to be well enjoyed, and spirits were high, especially as we had sheltered conveniently during the worst of the rain, so many thanks to Steve.

Walter Mason

<><><><><>

CRAFT AND NEEDLEWORK GROUP



We finished our summer "term" on the 2nd August with a meal at the Red Lion. We will recommence our meetings on Thursday 27th September at Marlene's house to discuss our projects in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

GERMAN GROUP



After our summer break we will have had our first meeting on Friday 7th September. There will be no meeting on the 14th because of the Cardiff trip. Regular weekly meetings will resume on 21st September .We had a welcome surprise visitor when we last met in July - Susan Richards from Canada, who attended our group some years ago when she had a long stay in High Lane. Since then she has been attending German classes in Canada, so was able to understand much of what was going on.

Marlene Brookes

--ooOOOoo-

The owner of a small computer store was getting tired of fixing the exact same problem over and over on computers for people...one day 3 older customers came in at the same time. He looked at them all and said. Every one of your computers gave me this error message "Error you have a syntax IDtenT error." And asked them to write it down. All of them got out their pens and wrote "IDtenT error," he smiled then told them. No that's not how you write it is the number "10". So they all wrote it again...ID10T error.

(with apologies to Amy Summers who sent me something similar – Ed)

Bowling Group

The Bowling Group recently held their annual bowls competition. As it was the leader, Margaret Evans' birthday the group presented her with a bouquet. Thanks to Sam Chappell for the picture. (Unfortunately I have not yet received the report and have to put the newsletter to bed – hopefully the full report will be published in the next edition – Ed)



10 Laws of Computing

1. *If you have reached the point where you really understand your computer, it's probably obsolete.*
2. *When you are computing, if someone is watching, whatever happens, behave as though you meant it to happen.*
3. *When the going gets tough, upgrade your computer.*
4. *The first place to look for information is in the section of the manual where you'd least expect to find it.*
5. *For every action, there is an equal and opposite malfunction.*
6. *To err is human ... to blame your computer for your mistakes is even more human, its downright natural.*
7. *He who laughs last, probably has a back-up.*
8. *The number one cause of computer problems is computer solutions.*
9. *A complex system that doesn't work is invariably found to have evolved from a simpler system that worked just fine.*
10. *A computer program will always do what you tell it to do, but rarely what you want it to do.*

Please let me have articles for the next newsletter by Wednesday the 31st October 2012. Thank you to all who contribute articles, keep sending them in. Ed