

HIGH LANE U3A NEWSLETTER

www.highlaneu3a.org.uk

Editor
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September 2010

GRAND HAT PARADE – CHRISTMAS PARTY – 8TH DECEMBER 2010
LADIES (AND MEN!).

PUT YOUR THINKING CAPS ON AND START PREPARING.

PREPARE A FANCY HAT FOR A GRAND PARADE AT THE DECEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY.

THE THEME IS FOR YOUR HAT TO ILLUSTRATE A MUSICAL SHOW TITLE.

THERE ARE PLENTY OF POSSIBLE TITLES TO CHOOSE FROM:-

FROM A "ANNIE GET YOUR GUN" TO Z"(DOCTOR) ZHIVAGO".

TWO EXAMPLES ARE SHOWN TO GET YOU STARTED, WHETHER YOU'RE IN STAID OR SKITTISH MOOD.

PRIZE FOR THE BEST HAT!

ANY QUERIES TO WALTER MASON





Ballroom Dancing



This group has been going for nearly 10 years and is open to members of the four local U3A groups. The class takes place fortnightly during the period from September to Easter. It takes place at High Lane Village Hall on alternate Fridays' from 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. The first hour is spent concentrating on just one of the Ballroom dances. The second hour is spent doing more general dancing.

Answers to frequently answered questions:-

- 1 The dances are taught by two qualified teachers i.e. Kath Taylor and Danny Ball
- 2 All classes require two people to come together, each needs a partner (Nb. two ladies may dance together.
- 3 No sequence dances are taught.

All enquiries to Kath Taylor –

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Crown Green Bowling Group

On 23rd August 2010 the group held the annual bowling competition; the venue was High Lane Conservative Club. The event commenced at 10-30am and continued until 4-30pm and a buffet lunch was provided. Feedbacks from participants suggest the event was hugely successful in spite of the rain that we had to endure at times. The winner was Barbara Pickup who was awarded a bowling trophy engraved 'High Lane U3A Winner 2010'. Bottles of wine were awarded to the runners-up who were, John Speakman, Sam Chappel and myself Ray Barratt. Booby prizes of four lottery tickets were also awarded.

Thanks go to High Lane Conservative Cub for use of the club facilities and special thanks go to Dave Lawton and Chris Lockwood, who, are members of the cub, and gave their time freely to organise the bowling activities on my behalf.

After two years as group leader I am now handing over responsibility for the group to Margaret Evans and thanks to Margaret for taking on this role.

Ray Barratt

Ex Group Leader

GERMAN GROUP



After our summer break we restarted on September 3rd and will continue to meet every Friday except 17th September when I will be away.

NEEDLEWORK GROUP



Our next meeting will be on Thursday 16th September when we will discuss future projects.

Marlene Brookes

Discussion Group



On the 21st July Jim Summers introduced the subject of Proportional Representation in U.K. parliamentary voting. The version which will be the subject of a Referendum on the 5th May 2011 will be the Alternative Vote in which the voter ranks the candidates in order of his or her preference. It is then subjected to a process in which the candidates with the least number of votes are eliminated and their votes are shared amongst the remaining candidates. This continues until one candidate has more than 50% of the votes. He/she is then declared the winning candidate. PR was discussed by Parliament in 1917-18 and actually voted for in 1931. Supplementary Voting, a form of PR, was advocated by the Government of 1993 and introduced for electing Mayors in the year 2000, The AV method of electing representatives is in operation in Australia, Germany, Italy, Israel etc. and in some of those countries it works quite well. However, for example, in Israel, it can happen that one of the smaller parties can hold the balance of power. In Italy they have had more than 60 General Elections since 1945 because of the PR system. Jim Summers pointed out that one voting anomaly i.e. the Party with the most votes cast in its favour nationally actually winning fewer seats, could be overcome by introducing compulsory voting as in Australia. There are other forms of PR other than AV but they are not easy to explain. We discussed other voting choices e.g. First Past the Post, Single Transferable Vote, AV etc. And it seems that they all have attractions (they seem to be fairer) and drawbacks as in Israel. In Australia (with compulsory voting), it has reinforced the positions of the two major Parties. It is hoped by Nick Clegg that it will prove to be fairer to the Liberal Party and break the hold that the two larger parties have on Parliament.

On the 18th August the subject of the wearing in Britain of the Burkha, by British Moslem women, was put forward by Pam Curley. It has been said by various Moslem clerics that it is not a requirement of the Koran and the fact that in some Moslem countries women are free to make a choice is confirmation of this. The question we asked was, as it appears to be local to some Islamic countries, is it custom, tradition or just the male population imposing its authority over what it sees as an inferior group? It does appear to be the case that some

Moslem countries prefer the status quo of male domination and female subjugation. Very reminiscent of the Victorian age! It must be said that not all Moslem countries are the same; some are less fanatical than others. Not all Moslem women think that the Burkha is an imposition; some have said that it is in fact empowering. How, is never explained. Education will help to change the status of women but unfortunately the Taliban see female education and emancipation as something to be avoided at all costs. The wearing of the Burkha does present many problems, both for the wearer and others such as Customs Officers, Passport Control, police officers, shopkeepers, neighbours, and maybe even relatives. How does a child recognise its own mother inside that big black dress? It is also a boon to suicide bombers, smugglers and of course Transvestites. With a quick flick of the Burkha, Yusef can be transformed into Yasmin. They call it "Doing a John Simpson". Nice one, eh.

Jim McDermott

Dining Group



During August the Dining Group enjoyed a taste of the orient by visiting the Beijing Chinese restaurant for their special set lunch, at a special set price for those over 60 years, which we all, believe it or not, were. All who went agreed that the meal was extremely well presented and served. Not only that but it tasted exceptionally good. Our next lunch on the 7th October when we shall not be travelling far, is to the Red Lion in High Lane.

Reading Group



The Infinities by John Banville, Picador, 2009

This is an unusual book and not one that was enjoyed by the reading group as a whole. We all agreed that there was very little actual story to this book, although some of the group did appreciate the quite lyrical prose style of writing. The events take place over one day in the life of the dysfunctional Godley family, and resembles a classical drama wherein the Greek gods intrude into human lives.

In Banville's prose style his use of words meant that it was useful to have a dictionary handy. Although this could be problematic during the reading process, when the group began to discuss this aspect we really found it very interesting to look at the definition and roots of words almost never used now, but which could be linked to the origin of expressions still in common use today.

Considering the group agreed that we would not recommend this book to a friend, it

certainly provoked very lively discussion.

TROUBLES by J.G. Farrell

Augusts' book was TROUBLES by J.G. Farrell. This book won the Lost Booker Prize, awarded to works that missed out on consideration because of a rule change in 1970. It tells the comic, yet melancholy tale of English major, who in 1919 goes to Ireland to meet the woman he believes he may be engaged to. From her father's crumbling Majestic Hotel at Kilnalough he observes Ireland's fight for independence from Britain. The disintegrating hotel is a metaphor for the British Empire, which, despite its many virtues, is doomed to decline in the 20th century.

The reaction of members of the group was mixed, with a minority loving it unreservedly, whilst others, despite appreciating the humour and narrative, and descriptive skills of the author, found some of it "a hard slog" and perhaps "50 pages too long". Still, all of us would agree that it was sad, funny, and memorable and well worth reading.

Sadly, J.G. Farrell, who did win the Booker Prize in 1973, drowned in Bantry Bay, 6 years later, at the age of 44.

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Family History Group



The Family History Group usually meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month during the Autumn and Spring terms in the computer room at Brookside Primary School, High Lane. We have the use of 18 computers with internet access, an essential tool for the genealogist. A fiche reader is available and we are building up a resource folder of additional information.

Our meetings are part general discussion and part computer based. While a basic knowledge of computers is useful it is not essential. Assistance will be provided on an individual basis, if required.

Topics are varied and we are happy to add extra topics of general interest on request. You will also be shown how to access and search useful genealogy web sites.

Tracing your family history can be a slow process, with a number of brick walls on the way. Perseverance often pays great dividends. After many hours of fruitless searching the moment you find your ancestor in the wrong place, or under a corruption of the surname, gives an enormous sense of satisfaction.

Apart from the usual dodgy marriages (and non marriages!) and families where the youngest child is actually a grandchild, members have explored sources of WW1 military service and army medical records, including medals awarded, one found a cousin who died in a prisoner of war camp. Another member started with a photograph of a gravestone and a picture of herself and now has several files of information, tracing one family line back into the 18th century. A further member's great grandfather married, had 7 children, his wife died, he then married her younger sister and had 3 more children! – How would you record that on a family tree? Come along and we will help you with this or any other problems.

As we have to cover the cost of hiring the room we would prefer members to pay in advance for the six sessions planned.

Charges will be:

6 sessions paid in advance £14.00

Per session £3.00

If you have any questions about the group or would like more information please contact:

Pat Christopher, Sue Harlin, Jean Drinkwater

Programme September 2010

16 th September	Getting started	-	Basic web site information
30 th September	Civil Registration	-	Ordering certificates
14 th October	Interpreting census information		
4 th November	More detailed look at free bmd (births, marriages and deaths) and Cheshire bmd		
18 th November	Keeping records and storing information		
2 nd December	A further look at Family Search		

HOLIDAYS

2011 Programme

By Coach to the **ISLE OF MAN** from the 16th to 20th MAY 2011

The cost will be £ 379 for those sharing with a Single supplement of £ 40.

4 nights at Hotel with Dinner, Bed and Breakfast.

Including visits to Castletown, Cregneash and Peel and a day at leisure in Douglas.

Visit to Ramsey and the Laxey Wheel.

DEPOSIT £50.

BALTIC CRUISE from 7th to 21st July 2011

From Southampton on the P. & O. Cruise ship "Arcadia"

Ports of call:- Copenhagen, Stockholm, Helsinki, St.Petersburg, Oslo, Kristiansand and Travemunde.

There will be a coach from High Lane to Southampton.

By coach to **NORMANDY** from the 9th to 13th September 2011

The cost will be £354 for those sharing with a single supplement of £70.

4 nights with Dinner, Bed and Breakfast at Hotel Mercure Cote de Nacre, Caen.

Daytime ferry from Portsmouth to Caen.

Visits to Bayeux Tapestry, Caen Memorial, Rouen and Monet's Garden.

DEPOSIT £50. At or before October meeting.

If you would like to join us on any of the above holidays please contact either

:Margaret Mc Dermott , or Ruth Smith

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Walking Group



July 2010

David Lloyd led 15 of us on a 6 mile walk from the Parsley Hay car park (just off the Buxton/Ashbourne) road, which made good use of former railway lines. First we went towards Hartington (with its restored signal box) and Ruby Wood, before following field paths past Stanedge Grange Farm. Two Dutch visitors were helped in getting their cycles over high stiles (the walkers only sign not having been seen!), and enabling Walter to practise his Dutch language skills!

Soon we passed Newhaven, and had a welcome lunch stop near Friden Brick Works – thriving after 118 years, and still making their Derbyshire high quality silica refractory firebricks. The return route was on the former Cromford – Whaley Bridge railway, once a pioneering contoured and inclined plane railway.

The whole route had attractive views, and magnificent displays of wild flowers (harebells, rose bay willow herbs, vetches, toadflax and many more, with a sprinkling of butterflies, including the common blue).

The occasional showers had not spoiled David's very enjoyable walk.

August Walk

Walter Mason led 13 walkers to the summit of Shining Tor, following a route planned by John McCartney. Unfortunately, an injury to John's wife Barbara had prevented John from leading the walk himself.

After a fairly steep and testing climb out of Errwood Hall car park, the gradient eased as we climbed above Stake Side towards the Cat and Fiddle disturbing a few grouse in the process, before turning (after a coffee stop) onto the smoothly relaid path to Shining Tor. At 1834 feet, this is now the highest point in Cheshire, since the Longendale stretch to Holme Moss was removed from Cheshire in boundary changes.

The return route was easy going, on consecutive slabs of paving down the long ridge to Cats Tor (lunch stop) and Pym Chair, then a short stretch on the Roman road "The Street". A narrow path, rather tricky in places, took us past the Spanish Governess's Chapel on a secluded valley, before we selected the wooded path past the now derelict Errwood Hall back to our cars.

The weather had been kind, pleasantly warm for walking and with occasional sunshine, and all seemed to enjoy the very pleasant route with fine views John had originally selected for us.

Walter Mason

The walk in September will be on Wednesday 29th September. The leader will be Brian Farquahar Meet at 9.30a.m. at High Lane Village Hall Car Park. The walk will be 5 miles, mainly flat in the Grappenhall area. Pub Meal.

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Churches and Pubs Group

Ribchester Visit: Churches (three) and Pub



Our July visit was to Ribchester, a Roman settlement in a lovely, unspoiled part of central Lancashire. We met in the (mostly) Norman, **Parish Church of St Wilfred**, situated on the banks of the Ribble. Our guide, Roy Skilbeck, explained that the Church had gone through troublesome times under various regimes and pointed-out the many changes brought-about since the Church was built in the early 13th century. During the 14th century two chantries were added. One, known as the 'Dutton Choir', retains a mediaeval wall-painting of St Christopher holding the child Jesus. The other, known

as the Hoghton Choir still belongs to the Hoghton family estate. The tower was added in the 15th or early 16th century.

Around 1538 the reformed religion was introduced throughout the land. This split the community, those who would not accept the change were afforded the opportunity of hearing mass clandestinely under the protection of influential families, however, that was a temporary solution which eventually cost these patrons dearly. When it became no longer possible to protect these 'recusants,' they had to shift for themselves. Those who accepted the changes continued to use the Church and, even though few could read, were instructed in the use of a new prayer book. The Porch originally contained the Church Library in which the prayer books would have been held but the Library later 'disappeared.'

A singing gallery, supported by unearthed Roman Columns, was added in 1736. A highly prized Jacobean Pulpit commemorates vicar Christopher Hindle, who was a 'King's man'. He was replaced by Mr Ingham, a 'Cromwellian', who oversaw the destruction of the stained glass windows and much carved work in oak and stone including the Churchyard Cross. But, the pulpit survived as did the 'Leper's Squint', the 'grave stone of a Knight', the piscina on the south wall and the sedilia containing some re-worked Roman stones. Important artefacts still disappear: priceless wind instruments used to accompany singing after Cromwell destroyed the organ, were stolen from the Church recently, as was the solid brass 'Eagle' lectern!

Our Guide had recommended the Ribchester Arms as a lunch venue and was able to join us in this well-appointed spacious 'pub' where the food was universally judged to be excellent. Then we had a two hundred yard walk (or drive, for the idle!) to Stydd Church.

St Saviour's Stydd, was built in the mid 1100's and was acquired by the noble order of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem in 1292. They added an extensive hospital and herb gardens, presumably to cater for Knights returning wounded, or leprous, from the Crusades. By 1338 the hospital and the religious community had gone, but an Agreement existed requiring the tenant of Stydd Manor to maintain the chapel and provide a chaplain to say masses for the dead. At the Reformation the church changed hands but in 1686, Stydd Manor, including its church was sold to "A group of Catholic gentlemen for the Rights of Burial."

Here we have a unique situation wherein two Catholic priests, a Catholic bishop and, it is believed, a Saint, (Margaret Clitherow, executed 1586 for harbouring priests) were interred in a Catholic Church which became, effectively, an Anglican Church, and were buried during the period of its Anglican occupancy. With the exception of the Saint, who **is** acknowledged in Church visitor literature, they all get respectful mention in the parent Church's Record of Burials. This betokens considerable tolerance and courage on the part of the Anglican community at periods when such gestures might have been viewed as treasonable. Further evidence of this is in St. Wilfred's other registers, which as early as 1707 record baptisms and marriages celebrated by "Romish priests."

Stydd church has recently been restored but its charm is undiminished. It remains a medieval church of great serenity and simplicity, unspoiled by modern intrusion. There is no water, gas or electricity supply and for evening services in winter, candles on window ledges and on the old altar-screen, provide all the light, heat and spectacle required! Despite mutual goodwill, appearances had to be maintained, (or perhaps disguised is a better word!) and thus the **Church of Sts. Peter and Paul** was built by local Catholics in 1789, before the act forbidding Catholics to meet for public worship was rescinded. It was designed to correspond in every architectural detail except depth, to the barn on the other side of the Lodge, in order to disguise its function as a place of Catholic worship. This is believed to be the sole remaining 'barn-church' in England and is, in consequence, a visitor attraction in its own right.

Everyone enjoyed the visit to this beautiful, ancient village and our sincere thanks go to Paul Kenneth for his thorough and considerate planning and for finding us a fine pub and an excellent guide.

Margaret and Tony Glynn

Going Home? A Reflection

Our recent visit as a Churches and pubs group to the lovely village of **Ribchester** set at the edge of the Trough of Bowland raised comments such as "I hadn't even heard of it." However, for me, it has been an important factor in my family's history and folklore for generations. My mother, Catherine **Bolton** and her parents and their parents and so-on-and-on were all born in the village or its environs. If, as our guide Roy Skilbeck suggested was highly likely, the vicar of Ribchester in 1367, William Bolton was the brother of my ancestor, he is separated from our grandchildren by about twenty-four generations. Proof has not been found. Nevertheless, I do have proof that an ancestor, Edmund Bolton was a chaplain. He witnessed a Will of John Talbot in 1551 so taking the cloth was in the family.

Roy Skilbeck mentioned in his explanation of the Church's history the problem of 'recusants,' - people who refused to attend the new Prayer-Book Service introduced at the Reformation. My personal research has our **last** recorded 'recusant' as Daniel Bolton, aged 17, accused and found guilty of recusancy in 1767 along with the rest of his family. However, our **first** recorded recusant was "Adam Bolton yoman of Salesbury (*Ribchester*) 1 month recusancy from 30th June 1588, convicted March 1589. " He appears again in 1590 but the punishment is not recorded and yet again, in the Recusants Register of 1593 where a serious fine is imposed:

"Seized land, rental, farm, the owner Adam Bolton lately of Salebury yoman. Annual rent due to crown £2. 17. 9d and two thirds of half seized portion of recusants land-two thirds of 8 acres of land in Salebury of the yearly value of £1.6. 8d and of twelve acres of land there, of the yearly value of £3. Reason for seizure: Recusancy of the said Adam." A later entry in the same Register states: "Adam Bolton of Salesbury, yoman, owes 13s 4d for the price or value of various implements, property of the said Adam, taken and seized into the Queens hands." Thus for his persistent refusal to adopt the new religious practises he not only lost a large proportion of his land but had his tools taken away and presumably he had to rent them back.

His father Robert had held the land before him and Adam had inherited part of it. Despite his losses he was not destitute and made a deed of trust to the benefit of Jane, his wife, and their "severall children in 1592." His son, another Adam, purchased Salesbury Hall in 1654 but like father like son 'he wouldn't say his prayers' but instead of 'throwing him down the stairs' which he might have preferred, the authorities made him forfeit Salesbury Hall in 1660.

Adam junior's son, Launcelot may well have taken the 'king's shilling', for he was resident in the family home of Bolton Hall with his wife Margaret and their children and is described in 1701 records as "Launcelot Bolton Gent" However, one of Launcelot's sons, Thomas and his wife are described as "Recusant Catholics." It seems that Thomas was the father of another "Lancelot" and he in turn may have preferred the easier course for he is recorded as the High Constable of Ribchester in 1747. Lancelot's cousin, James Bolton matriculated at Oriel College Oxford in 1703 so clearly **he** was not a recusant! As our guide Roy Skilbeck suggested, families were split. Not surprising when you think of the cost!

Here we miss a generation since we cannot yet find the father of Daniel whom I referred to earlier as 'our last recusant.' However, we do have records of all succeeding generations on a Family Tree which goes back to 1511. It is clearly the same family, with names such as Adam and Launcelot clearly linking my present knowledge with that of the earlier family tree. Also, in confirmation, we discovered in an old chest of my mother's cousin, five wills, dating from 1489, 1491, 1520, 1592 and

1679. These are the oldest documents of their kind in the whole of Lancashire. Some are in Latin and some in English. The first two were during the reign of Henry V111, the next three under Elizabeth 1st and the last one under Charles II. The one dated 1592 is the will of one Adam Bolton the notorious recusant! All these documents are in the care of the Lancashire Records Archives at Preston.

I realize that nobody will be quite as interested in this material as I am. However, I do think that as a piece of history it is still generally fascinating. Our trip to the various churches in Ribchester impelled me to record this story. I hope you don't mind me sharing it with you.

Margaret Glynn

" PO TATERS"

Some people never seem motivated to participate, but are just content to watch while others do the work. They are called "Spec Taters".

Some people never do anything to help, but are gifted at finding fault with the way others do the work. They are called "Comment Taters"

Some people are very bossy and like to tell others what to do, but don't want to soil their own hands. They are called "Dick Taters".

Some people are always looking to cause problems by asking others to agree with them. It is too hot or too cold, too sour or too sweet. They are called "Agie Taters".

There are those who say they will help, but somehow just never get around to actually doing the promised help. They are called "Hezzie Taters".

Some people can put up a front and pretend to be someone they are not. They are called "Immy Taters".

Then there are those who love others and do what they say they will. They are always prepared to stop whatever they are doing and lend a helping hand. They bring real sunshine into the lives of others. They are called "Sweet Po Taters".

**NOTICE AND AGENDA OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE THIRD
AGE TRUST 2010
(as seen on High Lane u3a website)**

Notice is hereby given that the 27th Annual General Meeting of the Third Age Trust will be held at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester on Thursday 9th September at 11.30am for the purpose of conducting the following business:-

1. To receive and approve the minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting.
To be moved by the Executive Committee
2. To appoint Tellers for the Annual General Meeting.
To be moved by the Executive Committee
3. Chairman's Report.
To be moved by the Executive Committee
4. To receive and approve the Annual Report and Accounts for year ending 31st March 2010
To be moved by the Executive Committee
5. To appoint Knox Cropper as the Auditors and to authorise the Executive Committee to set the remuneration.
To be moved by the Executive Committee
6. To appoint a Chairman, 2 Vice Chairmen, and an Honorary Treasurer to serve for one year.
To be moved by the Executive Committee
7. To confirm the appointment of 4 Regional Trustees to serve as members of the Executive Committee for three years.
To be moved by the Executive Committee
8. To debate and vote upon the 3 proposed resolutions and any amendments (these can be seen on the web site) submitted to the Annual General Meeting.
9. AGM formally closed.

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**Contributions for the next newsletter to be with the Editor by the  
31<sup>st</sup> October 2010**

All contributions gladly received.