

# HIGH LANE U3A NEWSLETTER



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

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## New Groups

Here is the latest information on groups that have been formed or are soon to be formed.

### **STROLLERS GROUP**

The proposed Strollers group will meet on the last Monday of each month for gentle walks around the High Lane area initially. The meeting point will be the High Lane Village Hall at 9.45am. The duration of the walks is expected to be about one and a half hours roughly depending on the pace. Members are welcome to suggest and/or lead walks if they wish. Please ensure you have suitable footwear, clothing and a drink of some kind. The first walk will be around the Macclesfield Canal and Middlewood Way area mostly very flat with the odd slight incline, and the date will be 28th May 2012 come rain or come shine. Any members wishing to join the group can contact either June Gibbs or Jean Goldsmith.

### **PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP**

We are proposing to start a photography group. It will be led by Brian Beardwood who is a very recent member of our U3A and has considerable photographic experience.

The format is still to be decided but will probably start with deciding a suitable subject each month, each member then taking their own photographs of the subject, and then getting together to compare and discuss. Later on, applications for photographs such as calendars will be covered.

Once things are underway Brian is very much hoping that members will assist in the running of the group. We have already started a list of members who are interested. In the first instance please let Pat Christopher know if you would like to be included.

### **NEW BRIDGE GROUP**

Jean Day is running a bridge group on Wednesday mornings at Hazel Grove tennis club. It's called **FUN BRIDGE**, and although they play competitive duplicate and Chicago, there is slightly less time pressure than say the Monday afternoon group. More information can be obtained from Jean Day. This brings to a total of 4 the number of bridge groups within our U3A.

The Dining group and the Churches and Pubs group are both very large and would be better splitting. The existing group leaders would give every assistance so please contact them if you feel you could help with this.

**If you would like to start a new group or help with running a group, new or existing, please let me know.**

Pat Christopher

## **The 2012 Royal Institution Lectures for the U3A**

On 27th March four of us journeyed to London to attend the Annual RI Lectures. It was a beautiful Spring day, more like Summer and this seemed to enhance the pleasure of the overall visit. The lectures were of their usual high standard, making technically complex subjects understandable and interesting to the generally less specialised U3A audience from around the UK. The three presentations can be summarised as follows:-

### **Forensic Science, An Overview by forensic expert Dr John Manlove**

The forensic sciences are the tools of the real 'Crime Scene Investigation' and they give a whole new meaning to this well known TV series. In solving crime, the forensic experts need to have a vast range of scientific knowledge. Biology, chemistry, ecology, anthropology, firearms, drugs and toxicology cover the main branches. At the crime scene, one of the earliest forensic pieces of evidence, fingerprints are still collected but now their clarity and accuracy are much improved. Also even the smallest contaminants in the area, such as paint flakes, fabric fibres and broken glass are painstakingly collected, recorded and analysed. Firearms form the basis of many fictional crime stories but the real necessity of recognising a full range of guns, their bullet trajectories and rifling marks is apparent along with the ability to identify gunshot residue on a suspect. Under the heading of biology, advances in the understanding of DNA are considerably helping in the identification and conviction of criminals. DNA is unique to every individual and it is found in the white blood cells of all bodily fluids. It has the added benefit of surviving for considerable time after death and needing only very small amounts to prove identity, thus many cold case convictions are now being obtained. Dr Manlove concluded by stressing that the primary aim of the forensic scientist is to present the courts with totally unbiased evidence. Whether this proves the guilt or innocence of the defendant must be entirely for the court to decide.

### **How Particle Accelerators have changed our Lives by Suzie Sheehy ( a particle physicist from the Rutherford Appleton laboratory).**

An American physicist Robert Van de Graaff first developed a generator in 1929 to produce enormously high voltages. The purpose was his research in nuclear physics concentrating on particle acceleration. His generator became the basis of all later developments and it was found that the acceleration could be boosted by turning the particles by very high powered magnets to form a circle. Today, the largest particle accelerator in the world is the 8.5Km Diameter Large Hadron Collider near Geneva and this is achieving particle speeds of virtually the speed of light. Here it is hoped that many theories of astro and nuclear physics will be proven by confirming the existence of Dark Matter and the elusive Higgs Boson particle.

However the use and development of accelerators has been in many more mundane directions.

- In the medical world, radio therapy uses a form of particle accelerator and more recently it has been found that accelerating photons instead of protons or electrons allows a more focused application and therefore causes less damage to surrounding

cells. Also X-ray scans along with CT and MR imaging have become familiar tools in identifying and diagnosing internal medical problems.

- The miniaturisation of computers and mobile phones today is largely a result of advances in particle accelerators for they are necessary in the manufacture of the computer chip. Also there is an exciting future in their use to control nuclear reactions. By using very high energy particles, the reaction of nuclear fission reactors can be immediately halted. This would remove all the worries arising from the Chernobyl and Fukushima type incidents whilst we await the arrival of the safe nuclear fusion reactors. Up to now however, it has not been possible to achieve high enough energy but the research and development is continuing.

**Food Production in a Changing Climate by Professor Tim Wheeler (Deputy Chief Scientific Adviser in the Department of International Development).**

Over the next century climate change is expected to bring the world warmer temperatures, changes in rainfall patterns and an increased frequency of extreme weather. By the year 2100 temperatures are predicted to increase by between 3 and 6 degrees C . The predominant reason is the increasing global production of carbon dioxide and methane which is retained by the atmosphere. This is from a substantially increasing world population, their need for food and the growing industrialisation of the developed and emerging countries. The challenge for farming is to develop crops which can flourish in the changing conditions. Whilst increased carbon dioxide and temperature can enhance a plants development, they tend to grow and die off too quickly. Thus strains are being developed to survive and flourish in this environment. Already established is a maize to tolerate drought and a rice to produce less methane and to survive extreme flood conditions. To reduce or even contain population growth is a massive challenge, for it would need a fundamental change to many cultural life styles. Also difficult but beneficial, would be a reduction in the populations' appetite for meat from their methane producing cattle but with a growing affluence around the emerging countries, this seems a forlorn hope.

The climate changes will bring benefit to some areas of the world, particularly Northern Europe and Asia where a Mediterranean climate will descend and enormously improve crop production. However the already undernourished parts of the world will inevitably suffer more droughts and extreme conditions which are bound to increase serious famines. Altogether, the picture is not too rosy, experts around the developed world are actively seeking technical remedies and to convince the politicians and their electorates that there is an increasingly urgent need to seriously address the problem.

**Mike Snape**

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## NEEDLEWORK AND CRAFT GROUP



At our last meeting on 12th April it was amazing to see how productive the group had been in preparation for our display at High Lane's Jubilee celebrations on 4th June. We hope to present a wide array of toys, cushions, cards, bookmarks etc which will be available for sale and a Jubilee bear which we hope to raffle. Our next meeting is on the 24th May and we would welcome new members.

**Marlene Brookes**

If quitters never win, and winners never quit, then who is the fool who said, "quit while you're ahead?"

## HOLIDAYS & VISITS



- JUNE 19th National Slate Museum and Ffestiniog Railway.  
This visit has now been offered to other U3As in the Pennine Link. If the numbers do not increase it will be cancelled and deposits refunded at the June meeting.
- AUG 18th Cruise to Iceland and Norway on P&O Oriana. Fares now reduced.  
Return coach fare to Southampton is £78. Please pay at the June meeting.
- AUG 22nd BBC TOUR to Media City Salford at 12:30 £6.75. A few places left.
- SEPT. 13-17th CARDIFF 4 nights Half board at the Thistle Park Hotel £343 Single supplement £70  
Includes visits to Cardiff Castle, St.Fagans Folk Museum and the National History Museum  
Deposit £50 (non refundable )  
Balance at the July meeting.

**PLEASE NOTE ALL DEPOSITS FOR HOLIDAYS AND VISITS ARE NON REFUNDABLE** (Unless the tour is cancelled)

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## Table Tennis



On Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2012 both Table Tennis Groups came together for a tournament at the Brabyns Park venue. The attendance of 35 members made it a memorable event with a good social atmosphere which we may repeat again sometime in the future.

Next time, with the benefit of hindsight we'll do it better. During the two hour period we managed 19 matches comprising 42 games. Competitors were evenly matched showing a result of Woodside Group 8 and Brabyns 11.

Brian Burke

## PERSONAL IMAGE COURSE



The next Personal Image Course starts on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> July at 10.00 am at High Lane Village Hall. The cost will be £13.50 for the six weeks. Please pay at the June meeting, cheques to be made payable to High Lane U3A (Heritage).

The course consists of:-

- Week 1 Colour analysis. Which colour suits you best
- Week 2 Make up and skin care
- Week 3 Body shape. How to dress according to your shape. (Tricks to make you look slimmer!)
- Week 4 Style personality. Looking at new season's fashions.
- Week 5 Face shape, hairstyles and glasses. Where to shop online.
- Week 6 Visit to M&S at Handforth Dean to choose an outfit (You don't have to buy it!)

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## DISCUSSION GROUP



On the 28th March 2012 the topic for discussion introduced by Jim Summers was " How do the members of the group think that they would behave and react if they had a large win on say, the Lottery?" After first discussing the improbability of such an event, amidst much laughter and jokey comment, we got down to the nub of the topic which was 'would the mind set, the values, the ambitions and expectations be the same or would they change completely?' After much discussion, soul searching etc., some group members said that they would not change other than to indulge in some small luxuries. Giving to members of the family figured largely for some, but one cynical member said that would be like feeding a ravenous beast with an insatiable appetite. Some were of the opinion that perhaps their favourite charities might benefit. One or two said that it was not possible to know how anybody would react until the cash was in the bank and realisation had sunk in. It seems inevitable that ones outlook on life would change once it was accepted that those things which were once unattainable were now within ones grasp. Those things which were once considered as luxuries would now be thought of as being ordinary. If I am ever lucky enough to win the jackpot (triple rollover ) I will let everybody know by e-mail from my palatial residence, just how unaffected I am by the trappings of opulence.

Jim Mc Dermott

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### Churches and Pubs



Unfortunately the first outing of Churches and Pubs this year on Wednesday, April 4th to St. Peters in Edensor had to be cancelled. The previous week we had all enjoyed high temperatures and sunny days. The day after the proposed trip was also fine but on the actual day there was SNOW. Teletext said that the A6 to Buxton was blocked because of snow and the A623 at Sparrowpitt was also blocked because of snow and a jack knifed lorry, When Paul rang the Crispin pub, where we should have being going for lunch, Joanne the lady in charge was lovely and said that we would probably not get into the village as that was also snowbound. Paul had to make a quick decision, to go or not to go. He decided not to go and made frantic phone calls to everyone involved. Not a good start to Churches and Pubs but hopefully there will be no problems for our next trip on Wednesday May 2nd to Gresford,.

Barbara Kenneth.

*It's a great pity the right of free speech isn't based on the obligation to say something sensible."*

## Ballet Appreciation Groups 1 & 2



The February and March meetings covered a mixed bag of documentary and classical ballet, with a touch of Strauss waltzes for good measure.

### Meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> February

#### 1. Carlos Acosta - The Reluctant Ballet Dancer - Documentary.

The documentary covers the return of Carlos to his place of birth Havana Cuba, where he choreographed his own ballet entitled "Tocororo" with a story line based loosely on his own life experiences.

Carlos chose a 17-strong company of dancers from the Cuban National Ballet. The young Carlos is played by his younger nephew Yonah Acosta, aged thirteen at the time and who is now an established performer following in his uncle's footsteps.

#### 2. Vienna State Ballet

Every year the Vienna State Ballet Company present a concert of music and ballet danced to a selection of Strauss Waltzes. This is a selection of extracts from the 2012 performance.

#### 3. Marcia Haydee's Master Class – Performed by the Stuttgart Ballet Co.

This master class is a preview of the ballet "Giselle" which gives an insight to the fully performed ballet which is planned for the next meeting (see below).

### Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> March

#### 1. Giselle - Performed by the Dutch National Ballet Co.

Giselle is a ballet in two acts and takes place in the Rhineland of the middle ages. It is a love story ending in tragedy.

The role of Giselle is one of the most sought-after in ballet, as it demands both technical perfection and outstanding grace, as well as great dramatic skill. In the first act Giselle has to convey the innocence and love of a country girl and the heartbreak of being betrayed. In the second act Giselle must seem otherworldly, yet loving.

Beautifully danced by both female and male principle dancers, hankies and tissues were brought out at the end of this very moving ballet but enjoyed by everyone.

Sheila Hall

“It's great to be great, but it's greater to be human.~ *Will Rogers*”

## GERMAN GROUP



After our Easter break we met up and discussed all our recent activities. At present we are reading and talking about the 2012 Olympics .After our meeting on 27th May we are having a month's break as I am away on holiday and have various family commitments. Our next meeting will be on 1st June.

Marlene Brookes

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## WALK REPORT 28th MARCH 2012



The 17 walkers driving slowly through the continuous built-up area of Hyde, Dukinfield, Ashton and Staly bridge, en route to Greenfield, might have wondered where on earth Walter could possibly find a pleasant walk for them. Three quarters of an hour later, the majestic horseshoe of mountains surrounding the three reservoirs fed principally by Greenfield and Chew Brooks, gave the answer. A glorious day with a cloudless sky and warm sunshine allowed us to admire the changing scenery as we took a quiet path by the trees above Dovestone reservoir, and then followed the access track by Yeoman Hey and Greenfield reservoirs into the heart of the hills. Occasional coltsfoot were scattered on the banks of the feeder channel. Encouraged by a local lady with local knowledge, 5 of our number used stepping stones to continue on the far bank of Greenfield reservoir, while the rest of us retreated on the easy near bank to join up over the dam for a lunch stop. There had been many cars and people in the car park, but here all was quiet. No car or people noise to disturb us; just the occasional sound of a pheasant in the far distance.

Then we returned by firm tracks on the opposite side of the reservoirs, with equally nice views, and just the occasional damp streamlet to negotiate. There was additional interest in the yacht club area, with new copses of dedicated saplings, and for Merlyn, a re-discovery of relics of the former thriving scout site, abandoned when the Dovestone reservoir was constructed.

A perfect day was rounded off by welcome visits to the Fairclough's ice cream van, parked conveniently alongside our cars, and everybody seemed very happy with their walk

## WALK REPORT TUESDAY 10th APRIL 2012



7 joined Walter (standing in for Brian Farquahar) on an easy 4½ mile amble from Dunham Massey. The sky was dark and threatening as we turned away from the car park onto the pleasant byway of Brickkiln Lane, leading to the charming hamlet of Little Bollington.

A narrow footbridge over the River Bollin, and a cobbled path led to the famous Bridgewater Canal, on a raised embankment above us. The first of several heavy showers caught us on this exposed stretch, before we descended to join School Lane by Little Heath Farm, and passed the old schoolhouse. Some field paths circled round to Dunham Town, past a lawn-mowing scarecrow, and over high steps into the deer park with nesting a swan by Smithy Pool. Then the way was parallel to Charcoal Road, before turning to head through a tree nursery and deer sanctuary, and eventually joining a long and impressive grassy drive, past a lone heron, back to Dunham Massey Hall and our varied eating arrangements.

The car park was quite full on our return, yet on our walk we had seen very few people. We had got wet two or three times, then dried out in between; but it had been a lovely gentle walk in spite of the heavy April showers and minimal sunshine.

Walter Mason

## WALK REPORT – WEDNESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2012



The weather could have been worse – but not much worse, as 11 stalwart walkers led by Sam and Irene Chappell set off in the pouring rain, and headed for the little hamlet of Rye Flatt. Staying with the track, we headed upwards to Alstone Lee, and shortly after left the farm track, to descend by way of a field track towards Broadlee Farm.

It was here that Pam did a back flip off a little wooden footbridge right into the stream, closely followed by Roy, who jumped in to help only to find himself knee deep in the stream. Fortunately, neither Pam nor Roy were the worse for their ordeal, and the group continued up the ever increasingly steep but easy path to the White Hall Outdoor Centre. The wind, blowing hard and behind us now, provided much needed assistance up the last steep stretch, before we stopped for coffee in the shelter of a high wall.

With much of the hard work done, we turned North, stright into the driving rain, to begin our return down to Combs. The route took us past Hazelhurst Farm, and then Haylee-Farm, where tiny shivering lambs were trying their best to find shelter from the heavy rain and the cold wind. It was downhill all the way now, and relatively easy going, except for three quite difficult stone stiles.

The party arrived back in Combs after about 2 hours walking, a wet but very cheerful group, to the welcoming warmth of the Beehive pub, who very quickly served a very good lunch.

Sam and Irene Chappell (Walk Leaders)

“To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and to endure the betrayal of false friends. To appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.”

— [Ralph Waldo Emerson](#)

“Life is an opportunity, benefit from it.  
Life is beauty, admire it.  
Life is a dream, realize it.  
Life is a challenge, meet it.  
Life is a duty, complete it.  
Life is a game, play it.  
Life is a promise, fulfill it.  
Life is sorrow, overcome it.  
Life is a song, sing it.  
Life is a struggle, accept it.  
Life is a tragedy, confront it.  
Life is an adventure, dare it.  
Life is luck, make it.  
Life is too precious, do not destroy it.  
Life is life, fight for it.”

— [Mother Teresa](#)

### Message from the Editor:

This would have been a blankpage which could not be filled with contributions from High Lane U3A. I am extremely grateful to the groups who contribute towards the newsletter but am aware that there are many groups who do not send me any articles for printing. I would be delighted to receive more items. Short articles especially welcome.

Please send all contributions to Jean Drinkwater,  
email address:- [newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk)

All contributions for the July newsletter to be received by Friday the 29th June 2012