

u3a High Lane

Newsletter

August 2024



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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the August edition of the High Lane u3a newsletter. As always, thanks to the group leaders and contributors; I couldn't do it without you. This month, we have celebrated our annual lunch, we have a report on the canal trip that also took place this month, we have group reports, puzzles and information about new appointments at national level.

The cover picture this month is from our annual lunch at Hazel Grove Golf Club. On a beautiful summer day, we enjoyed three courses of excellent food followed by an interesting and detailed talk on the history of theatre from our speaker, Mervyn Saunders. Mervyn thanks us for our donations to his charity, Lupus UK, which totalled £100. More photos of the lunch are on our website.

This is your newsletter. Please feel free to share some of your news, your interests, or items you have found that you think would be of interest to other members. We are pleased to welcome some new members to our u3a this month and look forward to meeting you at our meetings and interest groups. Your contributions to the newsletter will be very welcome.

Attached to the email is the National Office bitesize newsletter for July. This has reports of many varied activities taking place in u3as across the country.

The next issue of our newsletter will be September 2024. As usual, please send contributions to me at newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk by 27 August.

Diane Saxon

FROM THE CHAIR

Will everyone please remember if you have a cold or cough, please stay away from u3a meetings or group meetings as Covid is still about. You would be the first to complain if you had gone to a meeting and somebody sat beside you with a cough or a cold.

The annual lunch at Hazel Grove golf club was well attended and an enjoyable meal and interesting speaker was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Linda and Diane for organising it.

A reminder to members and group leaders.

If anyone has an accident at any of the group meetings or U3a trips you must fill in an accident form. This form is needed if there is any comeback from an accident. Without the form we have no proof. It is up to the group leader or organiser of the trip to fill the form in.

Don't forget we still have a quiz evening, music evening and a couple of trips this year. If you need to book anything, remember to bring some money to pay for the tickets.

Thanks to all the group leaders who came to the group leaders meeting last week.

Paul Kenneth

Entertainment evening on Friday October 11th

For this year's entertainment evening we are having guitarist Josh and fiddler Bob. They both play for The Mighty Craic Irish band and The Lucky Fifteens; both have excellent reviews. They have played at the Cheltenham festival and supported The Dubliners, The Fureys and Hothouse Flowers.

Josh and Bob will be playing Irish music and also some 60's music for us.

We shall be having a meal before the entertainment starts.

The menu is as follows

Main course

Irish Tavern Pie with a pastry top, beef cooked in Guinness with carrots, onions and shallots with red cabbage

Or

Chicken breast in a creamy leek sauce with new potatoes

Dessert

Apple pie and cream

Or

Chocolate Roulade

Please bring your own drinks and glasses

Doors open at 6.30pm and we aim to eat at 7.15pm

Ticket price is £25. Hope you can join us. Tickets on sale from July meeting.

Don't forget to bring some cash or your chequebook to the monthly meeting so you don't miss out on the events.
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Pub Quiz night



Hosted by the Quiz group. Please come and join us for a fun, light-hearted quiz with a mid-evening break for a cheese ploughman's.

We will have lots of different types of questions; something for everyone.

Teams can be up to six people, and we already have six teams joining us. There is still a chance to come and join in the fun. You don't need to have six people – you can come alone or as a pair or a three, or four. We will find you a team.

The date is Friday, 9 August, 6.30 for 7pm start. Please bring your own drinks and glasses.

Please contact Andre if you would like tickets.

High Lane wine society

The High Lane Wine Society has been meeting for over 50 years. We meet on the second Thursday of the month at Woodside tennis club at 8pm. The evening consists of a wine presenter who will present seven different wines: three White, three Red and a Rosé. The cost of the wine tasting evenings is £8 for the 7 different wines. Membership for the year is £10. We also have two BBQ 's and a Xmas meal which are extra. If you are interested and would like to know more, please email me.

Manchester Jazz special offer

Also, a reminder that members of High Lane u3a are qualified for a special, bring a guest free offer, at Manchester Jazz, monthly residency at High Lane Con Club, Buxton Road, High Lane, on Monday of next week, 5th August. A night of stunning traditional jazz by an internationally renowned band. 8pm start. £8 entrance fee, and for High Lane u3a members, a guest gets in FREE.

It's a great night of trad jazz with a wonderful atmosphere, free parking and superb company. This the second of two special summer promotional u3a offers and will not apply after 5th August.

We had a great turnout in July. Come early to get a good seat. Just arrive and tell the people on the door that you are members at High Lane u3a.

Paul Kenneth

MONTHLY MEETING

The speaker at the July meeting was David Seddon whose talk was entitled Romanticism. He began by showing us his state-of-the-art visual aid which was amusing but effective! He took us through the main differences between the declining Classical era and the rising Romantic era in the 18th century. Briefly the former is driven by the head and reason and the latter by the heart, the imagination and the individual.

He took us into the realms of politics, music, literature and art highlighting the main proponents of each and illustrating their differences. He gave us interesting cameos of some of the leading romantics including Rousseau, Wordsworth, Beethoven and Turner.

This was a very stimulating talk which captured the audience with both its content and the manner of its delivery. David donated his fee to the NSPCC.



The next meeting is on Wednesday August 14th when the subject of the talk is the Legal Power of Attorney. The speaker is not as advertised

Kath Wareham

PUZZLE CORNER

Walter has sent us a puzzle. Can you work out the answer?
You can find the answer on the last page of the newsletter.

"What was 30, but is now 31 – and what does Edmund have to do with it?"

GROUP NEWS

ART

My son in Australia sends me a calendar every year ... with lots of lovely scenes of Australia. This picture is called serenity on the Myall lakes. It is an acrylic painting on canvas. I enjoy being part of our U3A art group and have been a member for many years painting different mediums. It's great therapy!



Linda Jones

CHURCHES AND PUBS

Next visits

Wednesday 7th August. St. Mary's, Disley, meal at Rams Head.

Wednesday October 2nd. St James, Taxal.

Wednesday December 4th.
To be confirmed.

If you require any further information on the group, just ask or send me an e-mail.

Paul Kenneth

MEMOIRS

The Memoirs group will resume on Tuesday 6th August at 2.0pm in the Village Hall.

Barbara Kenneth

CRIME FICTION READING GROUP

The Crime Fiction Group met again on 2 August when we discussed *The Crossing Places* by Elly Griffiths. This is the first book in Griffiths' Ruth Galloway series. The series is made up of stand-alone novels but follow the development of a group of characters including Ruth Galloway herself, who is an archaeologist and Harry Nelson, a police detective.

There were only six of us at the meeting today and five of us really enjoyed the book, with only one who was less impressed. The general feeling was that the characterisation was good and those of us who had read the rest of the series felt that the characters continued to develop well. We also enjoyed the descriptions of the Norfolk settings and the memories of holidays spent there that they brought back. One of the group who had not previously read any of this series is looking forward to reading more.

The group next meets on Friday 13 September when we shall be discussing *After the Fire* by Henning Mankell.

Lesley McCall

TRAVEL GROUP ON THE JUDITH MARY

On Friday 12th July, 17 members of our u3a enjoyed an afternoon cream tea cruise on the 'Judith Mary' a 72ft long canal boat. Starting from Whaley Bridge, the southern end of the Upper Peak Forest Canal built in 1805, we were navigated through outstanding countryside passing through the village of Bridgmont. The railway was below the canal on one side and the main road (A6) on the other, but we were in a different world of peaceful cruising.



Whilst enjoying our cream tea served by Susie and her friendly team we past the Furness Vale Marina normally hidden from the road by houses and their gardens. Soon afterwards we arrived at our turning point and returned to Whaley Bridge canal basin. We disembarked to return home travelling either by bus or car. Hopefully we had all enjoyed a relaxing afternoon in convivial company.

Sue Harlin

CURRENT AFFAIRS

These are a selection of items discussed at our July meeting: –

1) Former Prime Ministers have Police Protection provided for their lifetime by ROYAL AND SPECIALIST BRANCH OF METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE. This also includes use of Ministerial car and chauffeur. Estimated cost £150,000 per person per annum. They can also claim Public Duties Cost Allowance which is up to £115,000pa per person to carry out necessary public engagements and to cover Secretarial duties and Office costs.

Q) CAN WE AFFORD TO PAY FOR THESE SERVICES?

A) There are now 8 living former Prime Ministers who are allowed this Police Protection service and also PDCA. Many of them are at a reasonably young age therefore the costs per person will be a considerable amount from the UK taxpayer to fund and will increase constantly.

2) Rishi Sunak said STOP THE BOATS and introduced the Rwanda Scheme which has now been abandoned for alternative schemes yet to be decided.

Q) WILL IT MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

A) It certainly will not make a difference yet. Over 1000 immigrants have arrived by boat since the election. We should speed up the processing of the backlog of many thousand immigrants which are costing a great deal of UK taxpayers money. Also speed up alternative plans with EU to stop the boats coming to UK. Introduce meaningful plans for the future ASAP.

3) Two Child Benefit Cap

Q) SHOULD IT BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE ALL CHILDREN IN THE FAMILY?

A) Instead of increasing the benefit to include more children, that money could be spent on more useful, meaningful and educational programs for these children to enhance their lives and knowledge

4) AFFORDABLE HOMES

Q) A school in Hawkshead is short of pupils. 8 children will be going on to further education next term and only 1 new child has enrolled for the new school year. WHY IS THIS AND IS IT ONLY IN HAWKSHEAD?

A) Because many of the houses in the catchment area have been sold as Holiday Lets, therefore there are very few affordable homes for the locals to buy. Lack of affordable housing is happening all over the UK, especially in holiday destinations. New housing estates are being built in many places, but very rarely do they include smaller affordable homes for locals to buy. Many large new estates may only include a small number of cheaper homes. New laws should be passed to encourage or demand that more affordable housing be included nationwide. The current planning laws are not working for the UK taxpayers but for the building companies at the taxpayers' expense.

Irene Podolanski

GARDENING

July is a popular month for garden visits, and our group had two very contrasting visits. Early in the month we visited Ruth's garden. Quite small, but Ruth's skill in gardening and propagating puts most of us to shame. Her garden always looks lovely and full of good things, vegetables as well as flowers.



Deirdre reports that in mid-July, the group enjoyed a visit to Bollin House, Wilmslow. The house and garden were in a beautiful location, overlooking the Bollin River Valley, with views towards Alderley Edge and White Nancy. This was an idyllic spot. Borders with mixed perennials, mature trees, and swathes of lawn led down to a wildlife meadow. We were lucky with the weather and enjoyed tea and cake on the patio. A very enjoyable afternoon.



Walter Mason

PHOTOGRAPHY

The photography group continues with a monthly themed competition. If anyone would like to join the group, they would be most welcome. Contact me, Ken Jackson, via the u3a site, email (photographygroupleader@highlaneu3a.org.uk) and I will include you in the emails sent out.

July's competition theme was LANDSCAPES.

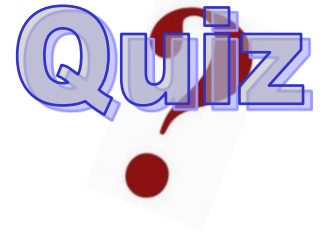
1... Cows below Bosley cloud, Ken, 2... Fjord, Diane, 3 ... Cortona, Walter



Well done everyone. Next month's subject is DERELICTION. Entries by August 22nd please.

Ken Jackson

QUIZZING



Our quiz for June was set by Margaret. This time, questions included county towns, longest rivers, tallest buildings plus national flowers and science and nature.

- This month's sample questions.
- County town of Northumberland?
 - Tallest building in Canada?
 - Longest river in France?
 - National flower of Japan?
 - Number of vertebrae in the human spine?

We normally meet on the fourth Thursday of the month but as we are organising the Quiz Night on 9 August we won't have an August meeting. The next meeting will be 26th September. There will be lots of different types of questions at the Quiz night and we will make sure everyone finds a friendly team to join. Please come and join us.

Diane Saxon

And some from the u3a website. Week 217 of the weekly Maths challenge, with problems and puzzles posed by Rod Marshall, Ian Stewart and the u3a Maths and Stats Subject Adviser – David Martin. New maths puzzles go up onto the website every Thursday.

Question 1
1849 and 1936 are examples of perfect square years. When will be the next perfect square year?

Question 2
What fraction of this shape consisting of a large semicircle of diameter 6 cm and three semicircle of diameter 2 cm is shaded?



TRAVEL GROUP



Ireland August 26th –30th
Information after meeting on Aug. 14th.

Isle of Wight July 7th –13th £759 NO single supplement
Some entrance fees included. Deposit at October meeting.

SHORT WALKS

Where was everyone on Saturday morning 15 June? OK the weather prediction was rain; a 10-minute shower, all of us well equipped for whatever the weather. The small group was taken around Werneth Low to the monument- spectacular views and two slopes brought us to the GM Ringway pathway and past Werneth Golf Club. The weather held for us but as we journeyed back to High Lane showers came. A few photos of the views and can anyone identify the flower growing in this wall, maybe Penny Wort.



20 July – The Torrs at New Mills

A sunny morning brought a few more folk out for a walk starting at The Top Torrs Car Park. After walking down to the Torrs along the river, crossing a bridge, a short uphill section took the group up to the Peak Forest Canal, then a break for a drink was taken. Walking along the canal for half a mile we turned left onto Gow Hole Trading Estate (the bus cafe parks here) but we did not stop for refreshments. Along the road carefully crossing over the road river bridge and through a small gate at the side of a cottage (please shut the gate hens)– on the loose! A flat walk back to the Torrs through meadows then a gradual climb back up to the Top Torrs Car Park.

The next U3A Short Walk is on Saturday 17 August Meeting High Lane Village Hall for 09.30hrs depart or 09.45 hours. Parking on Arkwright Rd– Strines Rd end in Marple. Walking by the Lime Kilns, along the canal to Pucks Bridge down to Roman Bridge and then flat walking to Roman Lakes and back up to Arkwright Road.

Ruth Smith

WALKING

Walk Report 31st July 2024 "From Lindow Common "

Merlyn and Joyce Young led the group on a ~5½ mile walk around Lindow Common, Lindow Moss, Morley Green, Quarry Bank Mill returning via the River Bollin.

We were greeted by summer sunshine and 25°C temperatures and fortunately the walk was mostly under the shade of tree cover on good tracks.

This was the 3rd time the group was taken on this walk dating from October 2010 (14 walkers), February 2017 (17 walkers), and 19 walkers on today's walk. Over time, the group members and leaders has changed, but still the group goes strong with some old and many new keen members.



The walk started through Lindow Common a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and conservation area to "Black Lake. Merlyn gave a history of the site past and present; a Lowland Wet Heathland rich in flora and fauna now managed under Cheshire East County Council. Sadly, cost and manpower struggles in this area to control birch tree growth and vegetation which is strangling the heather heathland.

Past days of common land for grazing cattle, peat extraction, model boating. Ice skating on Black Lake and a Gypsy racecourse surrounded the area.

Onwards next onto the many paths and turns through Lindow Moss to reach our coffee stop at Ross Mere Lake. Views of the beautiful lake in front and Saltersley Hall/ farm behind us.



We crossed several fields leading to Morley Green and made our way along a busy road to a little-known lane into Quarry Bank Mill. On this lane the old farm, barns and buildings owned by National Trust have been extensively rebuilt into luxury expensive dwellings.

A long lunch stop was taken at Quarry Bank Mill, in various surrounding venues, near the river, near the mill, in the garden, in the shade to suit all, and then we met up at the mill bridge to continue our walk after a group photo, and ice cream for some!

We returned following the River Bollin on good pathways under the shade of trees to (The Carrs) and then up past Wilmslow Ruby club and Kings Road back to our cars.

David thanked Joyce & Merlyn on behalf of the group for an enjoyable and interesting walk.

Merlyn & Joyce Young

NATIONAL OFFICE LEARNING EVENTS

All are free on Zoom. There are usually hundreds of members listening to the talks.

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|-----------|---|
| 6 August | Flight Inspirations Aviation Meeting: The 'Bloody Hundredth' Bomb Group |
| 7 August | Cryptic Crosswords in Context |
| 8 August | Agriculture and Climate Change |
| 14 August | Laughter Yoga with Judith – August 2024 |
| 15 August | From Monet to Modern: Exploring 'The Water Lily Pond' 1899 and Beyond |

Click here for details and to book a place. <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

Chair-Elect for the Trust

I am pleased to announce that Allan Walmsley has been elected as the new Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Third Age Trust. A founding member of Kings Norton and District u3a, Allan has served on the Board since 2020, first as Trustee for the West Midlands and more recently as Vice Chair. Allan said "I'm delighted to become Chair-Elect. It will be an honour to lead one of the UK's leading member organisations, and a movement that already influences the lives of so many people. I hope to lead on continued growth and creating an ever-widening range of learning and social opportunities for our members."

Outgoing Chair Liz Thackray welcomes Allan to the role and says "When I was elected Chair 3 years ago, one of my predecessors told me I had the best job in the world. When visiting u3as, hearing their stories and sharing these with others, I would agree this is a great job to have. I wish my successor well as he takes his place at the helm and wish him calm waters. Welcome Allan to the best job in the world!"

Allan was elected by a clear majority, receiving well over half the votes cast, and will start this role on Wednesday 16 October 2024 after the AGM. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the candidates who chose to stand and all u3as for taking part in the election process.

Sam Mauger
CEO of the Third Age Trust

New CEO for the Third Age Trust

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Iain Cassidy as the new CEO of the Third Age Trust.



Iain joins the Trust from a role as CEO of Open Age, a London based charity that champions an active life for older adults. With a background in fundraising, and experience of leading charitable organisations through times of change, Iain is motivated by the deeply held belief that everyone should be afforded the same opportunities in life.

Iain replaces Sam Mauger who has been in post for the last 8 years. Reflecting on her time with the Trust Sam says "Together with u3as, the amazing staff team and the inspiring volunteers and the Board, I have been on an incredible journey since 2016."

Sam continues, "The movement is filled with people with vigour, ideas and a desire to enjoy every moment of their time and it has been a joy to work with them. I am pleased to hand over the role as CEO to Iain Cassidy, from the AGM in October. I know Iain will bring his energy and enthusiasm to the Trust in the next stage of the movement's journey."

Chair of the Board of Trustees, Liz Thackray adds, "Sam has made a huge contribution to the both the Trust and the u3a movement over the past 8 years – and we all recognise she will be a hard act to follow. While wishing her all the very best for whatever lies ahead for her, I want to offer a warm welcome to Iain as our new CEO. Iain brings with him a wealth of knowledge of the voluntary sector and commitment to working with volunteers. I am sure we will all offer him every support as he takes up this new role at a time of change."

Of his appointment Iain says, "I'm really excited to be joining the Third Age Trust and the wider u3a movement. I know the impact that individual u3as have for their members, and I feel privileged to have this opportunity to feed into the amazing work you do."

He continues, "I will work hard, for and with, the amazing volunteers who give up their time to run the over 1,000 u3as in the UK. I will be a strong advocate for our members, raising our profile within the positive ageing movement, and growing our membership, so that many more people can come together and learn new things and have fun – now and well into the future."

Answer to Walter's puzzle

30 was the number of British Prime Ministers who have studied at Oxford University, but since July 4th that number has increased to 31. Keith Starmer, although doing his first degree at Leeds University, later studied Civil Law at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford.

In fact, the last six British Prime Ministers have all studied at Oxford. The one before them, John Major, did not attend a university at all!

Answers to Maths problems

1. $1936 = 44^2$ and so the next perfect square year is $45^2 = 2025$.
2. Each small semicircle will have $(1/3)^2 = 1/9$ of the area of the large semicircle, hence, the fraction of the area shaded is $1 - 3 \times 1/9 = 2/3$