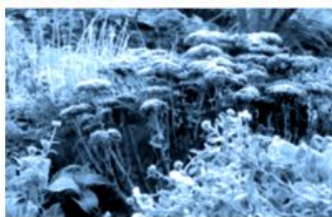


# Newsletter

February 2023



Shades of winter



## Inside this month

From the Editor  
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## FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the February 2023 edition of the High Lane u3a newsletter. Thanks to all the contributors for their interesting and informative contributions. The cover photo this time highlights the recent wintry spell with some pics taken by members of the photography group in their travels around Hazel Grove.

Group reports include information about the Art exhibition which you definitely won't want to miss and the Travel group has some trips and holidays for you.

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. This could be places you have visited, books you have read, films you have seen; your stories, anecdotes, photographs, recipes, poems, limericks, jokes; the list is endless. We are pleased to have several new members this month. We welcome you to our u3a and look forward to meeting you at our meetings and interest groups. Your contributions to the newsletter will be very welcome.

This edition of the newsletter is accompanied by the National Office bitesize newsletter for January.

The next issue will be March 2023 so please send your contributions to me by 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at [newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk)

Diane Saxon

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## FROM THE CHAIR

Firstly, I would like to say thanks to Brian Burke on behalf of all members of High Lane u3a for successfully running the table tennis for a very, very long time. Brian has decided to step down. Thanks again Brian for all you have done for High Lane u3a. The group is now in the capable hands of Keith Seddon.

Please can we remind members that if you have a cold or cough please stay away from any monthly meetings or group meetings. I have had a couple of complaints from people who have been to group meetings and people have turned up full of colds. There are a lot of people these days for whom catching a cough or cold is very harmful. The older we get the more we are likely to catch illnesses and they are harder to get rid of. Please think twice before you go to meetings. Thanks.

As you know, Barbara and I have decided to take a rest from churches and pubs after doing it for over twelve years. So far, nobody has offered to take it on. It can be run however you would like. It could be done by a small committee of two, three or four, or you could have a visit every other month for six months organised by six different people.

It's your u3a. There is always plenty of help. Just ask.

Paul Kenneth

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## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Membership is now due for renewal. You can renew your membership at the AGM on 8 February. If you are unable to get to the meeting, the renewal form is available on the website.

The membership fee for 2023 is £8, or £11.50 if you also wish to order the Third Age Magazine which is posted to you. This is still very low in comparison with other U3As.

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## **GROUP LEADERS**

Please would group leaders prepare a report on last year's activities for the AGM. If you cannot attend, please ask someone in your group to read the report or send a copy to Lynn Arnold.

## **MURDER MYSTERY EVENING**



The rearranged date for the Murder Mystery play is fast approaching. The event takes place at the Village Hall on Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> March, starting at 7pm. The play action takes place in an amateur dramatics theatre, where one of the characters meets a sticky end. You will be tasked with solving the mystery and identifying the person or persons who committed the evil deed.

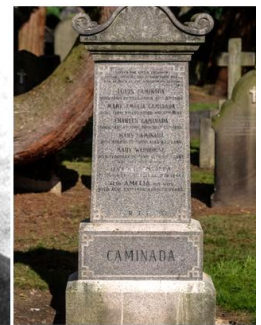
We have just a few tickets still available. To get yours, please see André at the monthly meeting or contact him directly.

## JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING

The speaker at the January monthly meeting was Joe O'Neill who gave an extremely interesting talk on The Real Sherlock Holmes.

Jerome Caminada was born in 1844 to an Italian father and an Irish mother in the slums of Manchester. He went to a school staffed by nuns, and he was to remember their principles all his life. He joined the police force in 1868 and from his first day when he made an arrest he proved to be extremely talented. He had a nose for criminals and a skill for observing them and often would pre-empt the crime. He was a master of disguise and had a marvellous memory for faces. His reputation grew with his success in solving cases including The Manchester Cab mystery in only 23 days and The Phoenix Park murders. He apprehended pickpockets, forgers, scammers and foiled several bomb threats. He received many promotions becoming Manchester's first CID superintendent.

He retired in 1899. His private life was touched with sadness as three of his children died in infancy and his brother died an alcoholic. However, a surviving son was in the same class at school as the son of Conan Doyle! In his later years he was published and was a Councillor. He was injured in a jaunting car accident, and he died in 1914. His eulogy was given by a judge whose life Caminada had saved by his prompt action.



Manchester Evening News 2014

He was celebrated as an honest and model citizen who wanted to protect good people from criminals.

However, he thought that no one was beyond redemption. He is buried in Manchester's Southern Cemetery.

The meeting was very well attended.

The next meeting is the AGM on Wednesday 8th February.

Kath Wareham

## GROUP NEWS

### ART

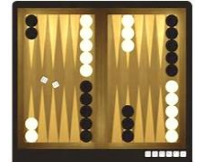


We are very excited to be holding our art exhibition which will be held at the memorial hall on Saturday 25th February from 10-4 pm. There will be some affordable art for sale as well as teas coffees and cakes to enjoy. We will also have a prize raffle. We are looking forward to this as we haven't been able to have an exhibition for a couple of years.

Val Brown

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### BACKGAMMON



The backgammon group is rolling along nicely with our fortnightly afternoons in the Bull's Head. We meet every other Wednesday, 2 till 4ish. We have up to 8 members playing. I took over from Ron Barrow, after his illness, with the organising (very little needed). I am glad to say that thanks to the generosity of Clive, one of our members, Ron manages to get up here for a game, and it's good to see him getting a bit better each time. We ended the year on our last session with a game of Trigammon. A board made for three people, and it proved to be good fun.

Ken Jackson

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### TABLE TENNIS

Just to let you know that effective from 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 I shall no longer be involved in the leadership of the No 2 Table Tennis Group who play at Brabyns Park Pavilion Marple Bridge every Tuesday from 1pm and 3pm. The role of Group Leader will pass to Keith Seddon.

As I approach an imminent 90-year birthday with a few health issues I feel a breath of fresh air is needed to take the Group further. Keith is both capable and willing to do the job - but I shall be around "a little bit longer" if needed.

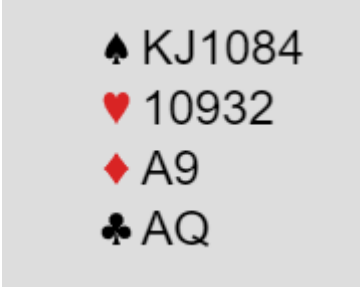
Brian Burke

## BRIDGE

Our three Bridge groups are healthy although still somewhat below pre-lockdown numbers. We are pleased to welcome some of our more recent members who have joined us, and encourage other new members who would like to play bridge in a friendly environment to get in touch with the group leaders.

A recent hand for you to have a think about

You are sitting North, and your partner opens 2C.  
This is your hand.



♠ KJ1084  
♥ 10932  
♦ A9  
♣ AQ

What will you respond? And where do you think the contact should end up?

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## MEMOIRS

Group members are all at different stages with their own memoirs. Some are ready to complete them and present them in a book or folder. Recently, we had a session looking at inserting photos and formatting which will be continued next month. We are very grateful to Pam for her help with this. Others of us keep remembering other incidents in the past and are nowhere near finished.

The format varies as well. Some people have taken to verse and dialogues. Bryan had written a short story about two boys (himself and a friend) who had walked from Levenshulme to Cheadle Heath in their clogs. You just never know what to expect!!

If you would like to try your hand at writing, this could be the place for you.  
Contact me via the website.

Sheila Harrop



## CURRENT AFFAIRS

Our first question was whether greenfield land should be freed up for housing if brownfield land was found to be unsuitable. The general opinion was that, as housing is such a problem, this could be allowed under some circumstances so long as the necessary infrastructure was provided.

Levelling Up: there is criticism that the North is getting a larger share of the money. If we could follow the example of Germany, this would not arise, as all their States are more or less the same size, and all are level. Devolution would help, when an area would be headed by a Mayor who would know the local needs.

One member asked whether we are getting a more authoritarian government. Laws are being discussed to prohibit strikers forcing them to at least still provide a minimum service, the NHS is in danger of being nationalised, 68 is possibly going to be the new pension age.

Members of our group thought that retirees who could afford it should continue to pay national insurance so long as the revenue from this was ring fenced.

Why, we asked, did Boris need an £800,000 loan. He earns massive sums from his speaking engagements and journalism, he has his MP salary as well as all sorts of extras, such as "freebies" for holidays. Where does it all go?

Prince Harry. The consensus was, he should not be writing the book and giving interviews. He has bitterly blamed the media for so much but now is using it to make millions.

A coalmine in Cumbria has been given the go-ahead by the Government in spite of protests about it ruining the environment. However, the fact that it will provide 500 jobs in a deprived area found favour with at least one member of our group.

A local issue was now discussed. Hartington Road in High Lane is temporarily closed. This is due to complaints by residents that speeding motorists are using it as a 'rat run' at peak periods to avoid some of the heavy traffic on the A6. Speed bumps were suggested as an alternative.

Should people be allowed to transgender at 16? Some thought that too young to take such a step. One of the problems would be the adaptation of public toilets. This would happen at whatever age there was transgendering.

The UK Economy. Who will be able to improve this? This is such a mammoth task, none of us had any answer so we enjoyed our tea and cake and let our brains have a rest.

Pat Gorie

## CRIME FICTION READING

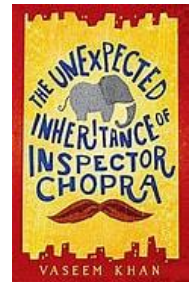


The first 2023 meeting of the Crime Reading Group took place on Friday 13 January with a slightly smaller attendance of seven people.

We had been reading *The Risk of Darkness* by Susan Hill. The author is probably best known for *The Woman in Black: A Ghost Story*. The book we read is the third of a series featuring the detective Simon Serrailier and his family. The story primarily involves the search for the missing children, but there are further different crimes linked through the characters in the book. The main connecting threads are the psychological impact of the crimes on the characters and also what may have triggered them in the first place.

As usual, there was a mixed response to the book – but no-one actively disliked it. Many of us found the style to be rather confusing, as there are many plot strands and characters and the narrative skips between them. However, among those of us who had not already read the series, two or three are hoping to read more, starting with the first book, *The Various Haunts of Men*.

The next meeting of the group is on Friday 10 February when we shall be discussing *The Unexpected Inheritance of Inspector Chopra* by Vaseem Khan.



Lesley McCall

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## SOLOs

Twelve members, some of whom had not previously met, came to the Fela Cafe in High Lane on Friday January 27th. How good to meet new people!

This group does not have a specific leader. Each member has contact details for the others. Suggestions for the future: afternoon tea, cinema, theatre, concerts, Sunday lunch, coach outings etc. If you are interested in going anywhere with the group, contact the other members to arrange.

Margaret McDermott



## DINING

We were very sorry that we had to cancel our Christmas meal at the Hanging Gate but because of sickness and bad weather, it was considered the safest option. Maybe next year we will get to see the wonderful decorations. Everyone we had a contact number for was notified and when we got in touch with the venue the manager was very generous and did not charge us for cancelling. We have therefore rebooked for April and we hope everyone who booked for December will support them at that time.

For our February lunch we are going to The Fiveways Fish Bar for a traditional fish and chip meal with all the trimmings which was quickly booked up at the January meeting.

Refunds are available for December and although I do not think we will have much time at the AGM in February we will be there with the cheque book, otherwise it will be the March meeting.

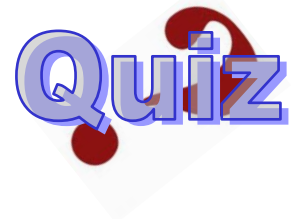
Apologies once again and we wish you all a belated VERY HAPPY and HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

Dorothy Gerrard  
Dorothy Neillands

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## QUIZZING

Our quiz for January was set by Sheila. We had fun testing our knowledge with a wide range of topics as diverse as TV ad slogans, food, history, films and science.



A few for you to try.

Who was PM immediately before Margaret Thatcher?  
How old was Adrian Mole when he wrote his diary?

What was Justin Timberlake's character in Neighbours?  
How much of the human body is water?  
What is a baby pigeon called?

Fancy challenging yourself with us? New quizzers are very welcome. More members would be useful to help us build our teams. We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month. Please get in touch if you would like to join this group.

Diane Saxon

## HISTORY

The name Joseph Bazalgette does not readily spring to mind but he made a vital contribution to the health and welfare of the citizens of Victorian London.

The year was 1858, known as "The Great Stink" and the summer was extremely hot. It was too much for the honourable members in Whitehall who were forced to breathe in the noxious fumes emanating from the polluted river Thames. Parliament was suspended and a grant of three million pounds was awarded to the Metropolitan Board of Works to solve the problem.

Chief Engineer, Joseph Bazalgette was given charge of the project. His solution was to construct a network of 82 miles underground of main sewers to intercept the outflows and 1,100 miles of street sewers to deal with the raw sewage. The plan included major pumping stations at Deptford and on the river Erith.

Bazalgette's London sewers were the greatest engineering project in the world at that time. They were completed around 1870. Still in use today, they handle up to 400 million gallons of sewage a day, although they are in great need of repair and replacement!

Grateful thanks to our member Barbara for her research and interesting talk.



The topic for the February meeting is The Plague of London, 1665.

Sheila Harrop

## PHOTOGRAPHY

This month's competition was A piece of jewellery.

- 1st In tune sapphires - Diane
- 2nd Silver charm bracelet - Jeff
- 3rd. Heart pendant - Jeff



The topic for this month is Musical instruments.

Please get in touch if you would like more details of this group.

Jeff Robinson



The National photography program u3eye continues. Diane's Christmas photo was one of the fifteen selected for December.

The February topic is **Repetition**. Why not have a go? You can find details and upload your photos here. [u3a - u3a Eye](#)

**Found in nature**

Also running is the 'Found in Nature' programme. Members are asked to share photographs which are 'wild and interesting'. Photos of elements of nature or wildlife that are out of the ordinary. Anything that has challenged your perception of nature and the world around you. Details and upload here [u3a - Found in Nature](#)

There are some good images in both these programmes.

A sample of recent photographs from Found in Nature



**Lighting Up Christmas**

On a very cold evening, this amazing display made us feel Christmassy.

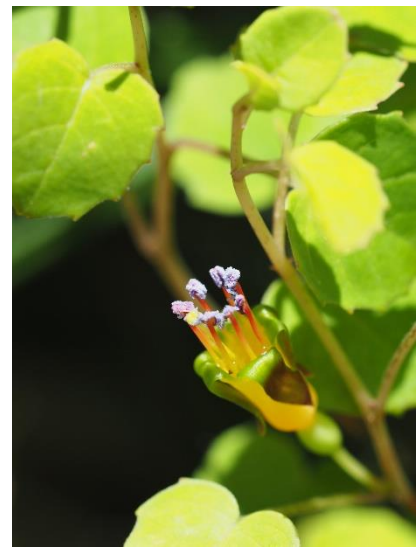
Diane  
High Lane u3a



Carduncalas. Janet, Balsall Common u3a



House sparrows. Graham, Leigh Estuary u



Fuchsia. Carolyn Monksbrook u3a

## TRAVEL



APRIL 10th–14th Nidd Hall Hotel near Knaresborough  
BALANCE at FEBRUARY meeting  
Depart Alderdale Drive. Visits to Royal Armouries Leeds, Castle  
Howard, Ripon Cathedral, Harrogate.

June 23rd–26th Carlisle  
DEPOSIT at February meeting. Possible visits to Tynedale Railway, Cockermouth,  
Hexham, Vindolanda, Solway Aviation Museum.

Aug/September Ireland

## DAY TRIPS

April 22nd Jodrell Bank and Knutsford Heritage Centre

June 17th Port Sunlight and Ellesmere port Boat Museum

July 28th Sudley House and Liverpool

More information at the Wednesday meeting or contact Margaret McDermott.

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## WALKING

### Walking Group report 25th January 2023

21 of us met at the Village Hall car park for a “High Lane circumnavigation”, i.e. a walk starting and finishing at the car park, more or less encircling High Lane.

We proceeded along the Macclesfield canal tow path until we reached a footbridge which we crossed. We then continued along a farm track to Platt Wood farm and then on to Elmerhurst cottage. Here we entered Lyme Park. We continued through the park to exit at the main entrance. Here we crossed over the A6 to enter a footpath over some challenging stiles.





There was then a steep climb through some ancient woodland to emerge at the summit of Jacksons Edge Road. We crossed this road and then took another path to Disley Golf Course. We skirted the edge of the golf course, turning onto a narrow road to then across some fields which brought us to the Peak Forest Canal.

We continued along the tow path for nearly a mile, stopping at a low wall, which we could sit on while we ate our packed lunches. We then crossed the canal over a lift bridge to Turf Lea Farm, crossing Wyberslea Road to take a footpath, a farm track and then another footpath to Victoria Cottage on Windlehurst Road.



A short walk along Windlehurst Road to the Macclesfield canal again and then back to the Village Hall.

Jeff Mortimer



## National Office Learning Events for February

Some highlights you might want to book. Remember they can fill up quickly.

7 Feb	Mindfulness – the first of a six-week course
6 Feb	Brain and behaviour
7 Feb	Royal collection – coins and medals
8 Feb	Lindisfarne gospels
8 Feb	Family history breaking down walls
10 Feb	The swan
16 Feb	Scotland
17 Feb	Yiddish theatre
22 Feb	Prosopagnosia
28 Feb	Future Lives
1 Mar	Climate change
9 Mar	Holman Hunt's 'For the love of a woman'

There are many other events. All are free via Zoom. Click here for details and to book a place. <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

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## Focus on Maths

National learning programmes include a monthly maths challenge and also a monthly set of Logic puzzles. This was one of December's challenges.

Four playing cards, one in each suit, lie face down on a table. They are a three, four, five and six.

- The cards on either side of the four are black.
- The club is to the right of the three.
- The spade is to the left of the heart
- The sum of the first two cards equals the sum of the last two cards.

Can you determine the cards' suits and their order?  
Solution on the last page.

Maybe we should start a Maths group?  
Anyone interested please contact the editor.

## POETRY CORNER

In answer to Walter Mason's request last month for a response from like-minded U3A members, I attach a Poem which I wrote a year or so ago. As you see Walter is not alone in bemoaning the ravages of age!

### **This Ageing Process**

I have recently concluded – that this ageing process is no laughing matter  
My arms and legs look emaciated – and it's unlikely they'll get any fatter  
Apart from looking stick like – my legs are now noticeably cowboy bandy  
Clad in just a long white sheet, I do a very passable – Mahatma Gandhi

Now each time I get up from my bed – or rise from my favourite armchair  
My limbs click musical accompaniment – which I'm told is extremely rare  
All my joints have developed their very own creak – unique to only them  
When moved in the correct sequence – they perform our National Anthem

The once glowing skin on arms and legs – is now looking decidedly crepe  
And every digit on both hands – have taken on their own peculiar shape  
Sadly my short term memory – now seems to be worsening by the minute  
I hear that Turmeric is good for that – if I could only remember to take it

My Dad said hair should be short like a lawn – and would call me Shirley  
He'd be ever so pleased now – as most of my hair waved goodbye early  
In an effort to look like Pep Guardiola – I threatened to shave off the rest  
"Any similarity ends with the shaven head", so said my wife unimpressed

All things considered – and after contemplating the matter a great deal  
I've finally concluded that this ageing process – holds little or no appeal  
Life has become a series of farewells – to bits of me which won't re-grow  
I fear all I can look forward to – is guessing which bits will be next to go

Stewart Clay

**AND FINALLY ...**



**Shrove Tuesday**

This year, Shrove Tuesday is on 23 February. A good excuse to eat pancakes. But why do we eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday? Pancakes were considered as a way to use up rich foods such as eggs, milk, and sugar, so we wouldn't be tempted as the 40 days fast for Lent started.

**Bridge problem**

As you have 14 points you know that between you and your partner you have at least 36 points, more if you play 2C as 23+ points, so you know a slam is on and can make a positive response to partner by showing your spades. Bidding is likely to proceed to asking for aces, when you find that you have all four aces so you need to decide whether to stick with the small slam or bid a grand slam.

This is Partner's hand

♠	AQ5
♥	AK5
♦	K
♣	KJ9865

<b>Quiz answers</b>
James Callaghan
13%
Scott Robinson
60%
Squab

You can make 13 tricks in NT, Spades or Clubs. Which contract would you choose? Would you have bid the grand slam?

The solution to the logic puzzle is here. How did you do?

**From left to right: 3 of diamonds, 6 of spades, 4 of hearts and 5 of clubs**

From a)	Card Position	#1	#2	#3	#4	or	#1	#2	#3	#4
			Spade	4	Spade		Spade	4	Spade	
			Club		Club		Club		Club	
From b)		#1	#2	#3	#4					
		3	Spade	4	Spade					
			Club		Club					
From c)		#1	#2	#3	#4					
		3		4						
			Spade	Heart	Club					
From d)		#1	#2	#3	#4					
		3	6	4	5					
		Diamond	Spade	Heart	Club					