



## NEW GROUPS

Groups are the life blood of U3A and the main reason why people join.



The proposed new Monday morning Beginners Bridge group needs more members so it can get started. Please contact Steve Reynolds or John McCartney.

We currently don't have any interest groups for those interested in board games, crosswords or quizzes – there are several possible groups here I'm sure. Would members who would be interested in forming a group of this type please give their names to the editor or send me an email.



We are always interested in extending the range of activities on offer. Do you have an idea for a new group you would like to be part of or to help organise? Even if it's just an idea why not contact our Groups organiser, Pat Christopher, to discuss how we might take it forward.

## ANNUAL LUNCH

This year's Annual Lunch is on Tuesday 4 March at Disley Golf Club. The cost is £16 which includes a £2 drinks voucher. This is always an enjoyable occasion so do come along. Tickets will be on sale at the January meeting.

## VILLAGE HALL CHARITY CONCERT

The Harmony Revival Barbershop Chorus, who entertained us so well some months ago, are giving another concert at the Village Hall with proceeds going to local charities. There is no need to go out on a dark January night as this is a matinee concert on Saturday 25th January at 2.00pm. Forget the January weather and come along to the Village Hall to enjoy a great afternoon.

Tickets are £5 inclusive of tea and biscuits available from Linda Morton.

## QUIZ OF THE YEAR

How much do you remember about 2013? No prizes – just for fun this time. Answers are on page 11.

**January:** British cricket writer and commentator who died this month?

**February:** The Pope retired – what was his name?

**March:** Which famous media centre in London closed after 43 years?

**April:** Where was Margaret Thatcher when she died?

**May:** Which party surprised us by winning 147 council seats in the English and Welsh local government elections? Which team beat Manchester City to win the FA Cup?

**June:** Where in Ireland was the 39<sup>th</sup> G8 summit held?

**July:** what are the Christian names of the new Prince?

**August:** Who was announced as the 12<sup>th</sup> Doctor?

**September:** Where did the attack on a shopping mall take place?

**October:** What went on sale on 15 October for £3.30?

**November:** Which former Co-operative Bank Chairman was revealed as having a chequered past?

**December:** Where was the famous 'selfie' taken?

Who were the three people in the photo?

Some thoughts for the New Year. Thanks to Jim McDermott for sending this poem for the newsletter.

## Thinking

*If you think you are beaten, you are;  
If you think you dare not, you don't.  
If you'd like to win, but think you can't  
It's almost a cinch you won't.  
If you think you'll lose, you've lost,  
For out in the world we find  
Success being with a fellow's will;  
It's all in the state of mind.  
If you think you're outclassed, you are:  
You've got to think high to rise.  
You've got to be sure of yourself before  
You can ever win a prize.  
Life's battles don't always go  
To the stronger or faster man,  
But soon or late the man who wins  
Is the one who thinks he can.*

The poem was written by Walter D Wintle, an American poet who lived in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. There appears to be very little known about him apart from this poem!

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## HIGH LANE U3A HAPPENINGS

7 January	NEW - Exercise class at Village Hall. 10:15 – 11:30. First visit Free. Details from Lynne 0161 427 7188
8 January	Monthly meeting. Barbara Lovegrove Inn signs and their stories
8 January	History Group. Edmund Burke: a talk by Michael Sparrow.
8 January	Marple & Mellor gardening group. Gardeners question time.
9 January	Ballet Appreciation groups 3 and 4: Royal Ballet's production of Alice's Adventures In Wonderland, premiered in 2011.
9 January	Family History group meeting Please contact Pat Christopher or Sue Harlin for details.
2 February	Matinee club. Johann Strauss Gala Party 3 pm Bridgewater Hall.
12 February	AGM. Election of officers. Nomination form on page 11
12 February	Marple & Mellor gardening group. Trees by David Myers
4 March	Annual Lunch. Disley Golf Club. Tickets £16 on sale at January meeting.
12 March	Monthly meeting. Des Winterbone "The Indian Tudors"
9 April	Monthly meeting. Joan Walker, Christopher Ellis, And The Robin Singers"
29-31 July	Walking group away break to Llangollen.

## U3A NORTH WEST REGION ACTIVITIES

29 March	Family History day. Kendal.
26-29 August	U3A NORTH WEST REGION SUMMER SCHOOL. Newton Rigg College, Penrith. Full residential rate £300 (£40 early bird discount). Day rate £150 (£20 early bird discount). £50 deposit by 31 January 2014 for discount rate. Contact David Joseph <a href="mailto:davidbjoseph@btopenworld.com">davidbjoseph@btopenworld.com</a>

## FORTHCOMING HOLIDAYS AND VISITS

Contact: Margaret McDermott or Ruth Smith

26 February	Tour of the Police Museum Manchester. Public transport. Information at January meeting
23-29 April	VIENNA 6 nights Half Board Hotel Artis BALANCE DUE AT JANUARY MEETING
3 <sup>rd</sup> week July	4 night holiday in London. Details in January
1-5 September	Ennis, IRELAND From Manchester Airport. Cost £449. Single supplement £60. Deposit £50 at January meeting.
14 October	Cruise to Cyprus, Malta and the Holy Land on P&O Aurora

## LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Now-18 Jan	War Horse. Lowry theatre
Now – 2 Feb	Vanity of Small Differences. Tapestries by Grayson Perry. Manchester Art Gallery
Now - March	David Hockney. Walker Gallery. Liverpool
Now – December	Channel Crossings: English and French Impressionism & Post-Impressionism. Manchester Art Gallery
19 Jan	Bolshoi Encore Live screening. Jewels. Stockport Plaza.
19 Jan	Mozart by Candlelight. Buxton Opera House
27-29 Jan	Ladies in retirement. Buxton Opera House
20 Jan	Lunchtime Organ concert with Nigel Ogden. Stockport Town hall
30 Jan	NT Live screening of Coriolanus. Stockport Plaza.
6 Feb	Bolshoi Encore Live screening. Lost Illusions. Stockport Plaza.
12 Feb	West End Theatre screenings. Private Lives by Noel Coward. Stockport Plaza.
12 Feb	Man of Destiny by GB Shaw. Buxton Opera House
12-22 Feb	Dirty Rotten Scoundrels. Robert Lindsay. Manchester Opera House.

15-22 Feb	Buxton Festival of Live Music including gigs from Mike & The Mechanics, Brian May and Kerry Ellis, Toyah Wilcox, the Blow Monkeys and many more. Buxton Opera House/Pavilion Arts Centre
17-22 Feb	Moon Tiger by Penelope Lively. Starring Jane Asher. Lowry theatre.
22 Feb	Music in Church, Hall and Home. WEA day school at Quaker Meeting House, Disley. Pre-booking essential
20 Feb -22 March	Orlando by Virginia Woolf. Royal Exchange Theatre
27 Feb	NT Live screening of War Horse. Stockport Plaza.
17-22 March	The Mousetrap. Lowry theatre.
12 March	NT Live screening of War Horse. Stockport Plaza.
28-29 March	50+ Show. Manchester Central

### GET FIT IN 2104 – NEW EXERCISE CLASS

From January 7th Lynne Berry invites you to 'Get fit and have fun exercising' at High Lane Village Hall. Lynne is a fully qualified advanced instructor, a member of the Register of Exercise Professionals L3 and a qualified Sports Therapist IIST.



The classes are open to all abilities and over time can improve your flexibility, muscle strength and tone, balance, core stability and posture.

The classes run on Tuesday from 10:15 – 11:30; doors open 10am. A free trial class is available. The cost is (weekly charge to £4:50 to class members (£12)).

For more details call Lynne.

### LEARN SOMETHING NEW IN 2014

There are many opportunities for learning new skills available to us through U3A and local organizations. Here are just some of the courses starting over the next few weeks, many of which can be studied in your own home; just the job for when the bad weather arrives.

### ONLINE MOOCs FOR 2014

Following on from the article on MOOCs in the last edition of the newsletter, FutureLearn has added nine new courses to the list of subjects you can study free online including

- Shakespeare's Hamlet: text, performance and culture
- Good brain, bad brain: Basics Good brain, bad brain: Parkinson's disease
- Exploring our oceans
- Exploring anatomy: The human abdomen
- Understanding drugs and addiction
- How the web is changing the world

Start dates are generally in January or February. You will need to register for the course by clicking the Join link on the relevant web page.

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses>

Your Editor has signed up for one of these courses and is also interested in hearing from any member who studies a course with FutureLearn - so please get in touch.

### U3A ONLINE COURSES

Untutored courses offered by U3A Head Office are still available and can be started at any time. Go to

[http://onlinecourses.u3a.org.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=21&Itemid=38](http://onlinecourses.u3a.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=21&Itemid=38) to sign up for a course. Courses currently available are:

- Digital imaging
- Garden history
- Creative writing: fiction
- Creative writing: poetry
- Write to good effect
- Writing for publication
- Italian art: 1400-1600 (level 1 - suitable for beginners)
- Artists of Spain (level 2 - requiring some knowledge)
- Venice and her artists (level 2 - requiring some knowledge)
- Visiting artists in Rome (level 2 - requiring some knowledge)
- Great Northern European Artists



## WEA COURSES

A number of courses start in January including:

**High Lane Library:** Drawing and painting  
**Quaker Meeting House, Disley :** Archaeological landscapes and the making of Britain, American Literature, Birdwatching walks  
**Cheadle Hulme:** Intro to digital photography, Creative writing, Literature.

Details at [www.wea.org.uk](http://www.wea.org.uk) or from Rosemary Broadhurst

## IT CORNER – TABLETS



Tablet computers were the most popular electronic gift this Christmas for both adults and children. The

most well known tablet is probably the iPad but there are many other tablets available starting at around £100 that will do all you need. A tablet is a very convenient tool for browsing the Internet, using facebook and email, reading ebooks, playing online games, watching TV programmes via the iPlayer, playing music, showing photographs, using Skype and many other applications. They are also ideal for studying one of these online courses.

There is a very helpful Which report at <http://www.which.co.uk/technology/computing/guides/tablet-buyers-guide/> but if you are unsure about what to buy or how to get started contact Pat Christopher who will find you an IT Buddy to assist you in getting started.

## TWELFTH NIGHT

Time to take down the tree and the decorations but did you know?

- London's Drury Lane Theatre has had a tradition since 1795 of providing a Twelfth Night cake. Robert Baddeley bequeathed £100 to provide cake and punch every year for the company in residence at the theatre on January 6th.
- Shakespeare's play Twelfth Night was written to be performed as a Twelfth Night entertainment

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

At the November meeting, Brian Hallworth gave an enjoyable and informative talk entitled 'In the Bleak Mid Winter'. Accompanied by photos and music, Brian explored the origins of many of the Christmas traditions that we take for granted. Did you know that John Wainwright, a Stockport organist and composer, wrote the carol 'Christians awake, Salute the Happy Morn'?



## CHRISTMAS PARTY

The December meeting was once again our traditional Christmas party. Peter Heaton gave an interesting talk on Christmas traditions in various countries. This was followed by a delicious afternoon tea prepared by the redoubtable team of helpers.



Much brain twisting went on with the accompanying quiz on music and local places to identify. We finished with some carols led by Walter Mason on the piano.



**CURRY AND SOCIAL EVENING**

Nearly 100 members gathered at the Village Hall for the curry and social evening on 15 November 2013. Members watched a slide show of photographs from group meetings, trips and visits during 2013 whilst identifying some famous faces on a quiz sheet. On the menu was a choice of chicken curry or hot pot followed by a choice of pudding, all of which were soon demolished. The quiz continued after the meal with questions on famous buildings and themes from TV shows. Our thanks to those who set up the room, set the tables and organised the food and entertainment.

**TRADES PERSONS – UPDATED LIST**

**IT IS NOT THE POLICY OF THE U3A TO PUBLISH THE APPROVAL (OR OTHERWISE) OF TRADES PERSONS TO NON MEMBERS OF OUR GROUP. MEMBERS WISHING TO SEE THE LIST, PLEASE CONTACT A COMMITTEE MEMBER.**

**GROUP REPORTS****BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 1 & 2**

November Meeting:

Lady of the Camellias” (Based on a story by Alexandre Dumas), Performed by the “Paris Opera Ballet”. Choreographer - John Neumeier - Music by - Frederic Chopin

After watching the documentary of the making of “Lady of the Camellias last month, everyone decided they would like to see the full version of this beautiful ballet at our next meeting. This excellent ballet is full of drama and wonderful costumes. The music by Chopin was the icing on the cake and the dancing was just fabulous and enjoyed by all.



December Meeting: Christmas Prog.

Birmingham Royal Ballet presents: “Cinderella”  
A ballet in 3 Acts. Choreographer-David Bintley

We all enjoyed a glass of Bucks Fizz or fresh orange whilst watching this lovely Christmas ballet Programme. This production of “Cinderella” was quite magical and put us all in the Christmas Spirit.

Sheila Hall

**BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 3 & 4**

The groups continue to meet from 2-4 pm. either on the 4th Wednesday or 1st Thursday of each month.

23rd October/ 7th November: We saw The Royal Ballet in the 2005 production of La Fille Mal Gardee, choreographed by Frederick Ashton in 1960.

27th November / 5th December: The theme was American Ballet in the 1980's. During this period, Mikhail Baryshnikov was the Director of the American Ballet Theatre. We saw an excellent documentary showing the dancers working with the choreographer Choo San Gogh on a new piece – Configurations - danced to music by Samuel Barber.

This was followed by a performance of Configurations, filmed in 1983, and another piece – Great Galloping Gottschalk, commissioned for the American Ballet Theatre and premiered in 1982.

Plans for 2014 include the Royal Ballet in Giselle, the work of choreographer Jiri Kylian with the Netherlands Dance Theatre, and a look at the Paris Opera Ballet.

Meg Humphries.

## CHURCHES AND PUBS

### St Thomas Becket, Chapel-en-le-Frith. 4th Dec 2013.

The last churches and pubs of the year took 52 of us on the short trip to the parish church of Thomas



Becket in Chapel. We were welcomed with a hot drink of tea or coffee. Beyond the market place

at the top of Church Brow, its churchyard bordered by a row of magnificent limes, stands the parish church of Thomas Becket. The first chapel was built about 1220.

Today the church tower forms a conspicuous landmark rising above the trees on the summit of the hill above the town. The present church stands on the same site as the original chapel. The older parts of the church are built with local millstone grit which is pinkish in colour and was quarried at Crist quarry near Buxworth. Upon entering the church the first thing you notice are the oak box pews, dating from 1834, which are very good at keeping the winter draughts out. The windows on the south isle have wooden

frames while those in the rest of the church have stone mullions and tracery.

The nave roof was originally plastered and when this was removed during restoration work in 1890 the 'Tie Beam' roof was revealed. There are on the walls above the choir stalls various memorials, including several to the Bagshawe family of Ford Hall.

In 1648 the church was used as a prison when 1500 prisoners of the Scots army, under the Duke of Hamilton were incarcerated within the limited space of the church from 14th to 30th September after the civil war battle at Ribblesdale near Preston, in Lancashire. Forty four died before their release and many more did not survive the march which followed, with a further ten dying before they reached Cheshire.

The church yard contains several items of note. Close to the foot of the tower is the pillar of a Saxon cross found built into the wall and brought from Ollerenshaw Hall in 1924. The old sundial on a stone stump nearby is at least 300 years old and the shaft may have stood in the market place.

After an enjoyable morning at the church we all travelled the ten minutes to the Beehive pub at Combes where an excellent three course Christmas lunch was served.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported this group during the year; in particular those who have given lifts and written reports. We hope to start again next April 2014.

Paul Kenneth

## CRAFT AND NEEDLEWORK GROUP

The group held a successful sale of cards and other small items at the November monthly meeting. This sale plus the raffle raised £106 for the National Osteoporosis Society.



I would love to thank the member who left me the beautiful boxes of embroidery silks, other materials and patterns. The Group is very appreciative of these and will find good uses for the materials.

Marlene Brooks



**FAMILY HISTORY GROUP**

Our members are helped to use the internet and other resources to look into their family history. At the moment some are involved in general research but, with the centenary of the start of WW1 in 2014, a number are concentrating on relatives involved in that conflict. Some of these are quite distant relatives (mine is a cousin once removed) but others are direct lines.

We are uncovering some very sad stories but also other stories of extreme bravery. We aim to put together a substantial display later in the year or even produce a booklet but this will partly depend on the number of individual stories we uncover. We can find details of war graves, medal rolls, some medical records and other related items.

We would like to help you discover your family links to this conflict, or anything else that interests you, so please get in touch if you think you have a family story to tell. We have discovered land owners, bigamists, business owners and children born out of wedlock (a surprising number of those!)

If you are not free at our meeting times we may still be able to help point you in the right direction so please get in touch with us.

Pat Christopher

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**GERMAN GROUP**

The German Group has had another successful year. At our meeting on 13 December we sang some German songs and enjoyed gluhwein and stollen. We also read an ironic scientific investigation into the existence of Father Christmas – in German of course.

On 20 December, 16 members enjoyed a very good meal at our annual Christmas lunch at the Wycliffe Hotel in Edgeley.

Marlene Brooks

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**GARDENING - MARPLE BRIDGE & MELLOR U3A OPEN GARDENING GROUP**

A merry time was had by Gardening Group members at their Christmas meeting, with a competition for Christmas decorations made from natural foliage and flowers from their own gardens. Laid out on tables, more than twenty arrangements of holly, ivy, twigs, cones, candles and ribbons made for a real festive scene in which to enjoy our mince pies and coffee. Members voted the winner an imaginative and delightful door hanging.

The new programme of events and talks was announced – the first meeting is on 8 January and it promises to be a very entertaining year ahead. Why not come along to one of our meetings held at Marple Methodist Church, Church Lane, Marple on the 2nd Wednesday of the month (apart from outings days) – cost is £2 per meeting which includes coffee.

Jean Parrish

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**HISTORY GROUP****13th November: THE NAZIS AND HISTORY**

In the early 1930s Hitler wanted to give the German people a history that would unite all Germany and acknowledge Hitler as the supreme leader. He took the swastika from India where it is regarded as a holy symbol and made it the flag of the Nazis. Himmler, head of the SS, attempted to obtain a Roman manuscript from an Italian count to prove that an Aryan race that defeated the Romans were the direct ancestors of the modern day Germans. Himmler also instituted an organisation called the Ahnenerbe in which academics from all fields worked to prove that the Germans were the 'chosen' people. However, all this proved futile; as we know the 1000 year Reich only lasted for a few years.

The next meeting of the History group will be on Wednesday 8 January 2014 when Michael Sparrow will talk about Edmund Burke.

Pam Curley

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## PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

### November meeting

We started the meeting with a display of photos for our "Autumn Tints" competition – 1st Diane Saxon (trees), 2nd Brian Beck (leaves) and a discussion of the entries.



We then spent some time taking photos of various still life objects for our next competition.

Diane then gave a demonstration of some of the features of the current version of Corel PaintShop Pro including using layering to superimpose pictures on top of each other. This technique enables objects to be separated from their original location and placed on a different background.

### DECEMBER MEETING

Six members met at Walter's house, starting with a double competition on our still life pictures. In the first (pictures of still life objects taken at Diane's house in November), the winners were 1<sup>st</sup> Walter Mason 2<sup>nd</sup> Fred Goodier.



In the second competition (pictures taken of own objects at leisure at home) Brian Beck gained 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places.

We continued by discussing the difficulties we had all experienced whilst photographing still life objects, particularly with bright sunlight, impedance from the

other photographers, and trying to keep the object sharp, but the background diffuse. Then it was a quick mince pie each before breaking for Christmas.

The competition for the next meeting is Winter. Looking ahead to the March competition, Brian has set us a technical challenge – we are to take multiple pictures of a single subject from the same position but using different camera settings.

Walter Mason

## READING GROUP

Our book for November/December was *Moonlight in Odessa* by Janet Skeslien Charles, an American author living in Paris. This is her first novel and was chosen by Publishers Weekly as one of their top ten debut novels in 2009. The novel tells the story of 23-year-old Daria living in Ukraine. She has an engineering degree, speaks perfect English and lives with her nan whom she supports. She works as a secretary at the Odessa branch of an Israeli logistics company – and soon finds that her boss wants more than a working relationship. To deflect his advances, she sets him up with her neighbour, Olga. Daria takes on another job as an interpreter for Soviet Unions™, a dating agency that facilitates matches between American men and Ukrainian women often desperate to get out of the country. Daria, encouraged by her nan, leaves for marriage, America and what is seen as security – but things don't turn out quite as she expected.

The book is a good read, very funny in places and confronts the clichés that still exist about life on both sides of the old iron curtain.

Diane Saxon

## SHAKESPEARE GROUP

### RICHARD II – SYNOPSIS

Richard reigned from 1377 -1399 succeeding Edward III when only a child. The play opens with Richard settling a dispute between Henry Bolingbroke and Thomas Mowbray (Duke of Norfolk) by originally ordering a trial by combat, then forbidding it and sentencing both men to exile. Henry's father, John of Gaunt dies and Richard, against the wishes of powerful noblemen, seizes his estate to pay for his

coming Irish campaign. While he is in Ireland, Bolingbroke lands in Yorkshire and is joined by the Earl of Northumberland to march to Berkeley Castle where the Duke of York, acting as regent is obliged to receive them. Bolingbroke executes two of Richard's favourites, "the caterpillars of the commonwealth", Bushy and Green. The country rises in Henry's favour.

When Richard lands back in Wales he hears only a tale of woe and is taken prisoner at Flint Castle with York's son, Aumerle. In London Richard yields the crown to Bolingbroke who will become King Henry 1V. Richard is sent to Pomfret (Pontefract) Castle. Aumerle and the Bishop of Carlisle join in a plot against the King which is discovered by York. Henry grants a pardon only on the intervention of the Duchess of York, Aumerle's mother.

Richard is murdered by Sir Pierce of Exton, a crime at once mourned by the King who had prompted it. "From your own mouth, did I this deed," says Exton; and Henry answers, "They love not poison that do poison need, Nor do I thee:"

Steve Reynolds

## WALKING GROUP

WEDNESDAY 18TH DECEMBER



Steve Reynolds took a group of 18 members on a very pleasant undulating walk in Lower Mellor. The promised rain proved to be fitful sunshine, as we negotiated two stream valleys (both un-named on 1:25000 Ordnance Survey maps), and passed Townscliffe Farm on our way to a coffee stop at Mill Brow.

We briefly followed Hollywood Road, admiring a local garden then took a short fieldpath, before we steadily ascended up the fields to Mellor Hall and the vicarage garden with its celebrated stone age dig. We looked inside Mellor Church, where a small colourful modern window contrasted with older surroundings, then followed steps into the field below to pick up Knowle Road, soon leading us back to the Royal Oak, which gave us really nice lunches in pleasant pub surroundings.

Steve and Ann were well thanked for their walk, and (in a flush of Christmas spirit?) Steve was soon musing on the possibility of a summer evening walking return visit to the Royal Oak – watch this space!

Walter Mason

## QUIZ ANSWERS

Christopher Martin Jenkins  
 Pope Benedict XVI  
 BBC Television centre  
 The Ritz Hotel, London  
 UKIP  
 Wigan  
 Lough Erne Resort, Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, N Ireland  
 George Alexander Louis  
 Peter Capaldi  
 Westgate Mall, Nairobi, Kenya  
 Royal Mail shares  
 Paul Flowers  
 Nelson Mandela memorial service  
 David Cameron, Barack Obama, Helle Thorning-Schmidt

How many did you remember?

Please don't forget to send all contributions for the next newsletter to me at [newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk) by Friday 28 February 2014.

Thank you

Diane Saxon

**HIGH LANE U3A COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS FOR 2014**

The Committee for 2014 to be elected at the AGM on 12 February 2014.

If you wish to nominate any member for the Committee please complete the form and return it to either Margaret McDermott or Sue Harlin by the date of the monthly meeting on 8 January 2014.

Cut: .....

COMMITTEE	NOMINEE	SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	NOMINATED BY	SECONDED BY
CHAIRMAN				
VICE CHAIR				
SECRETARY				
TREASURER				
MEMBER				