

**FROM THE CHAIR**

May I wish you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

During 2014 we enjoyed very successful social events in November and December. Many thanks are due to committee members who arranged these. We must give special thanks to Walter Mason who has organised the Christmas Party every year since 2009. Walter is now retiring from the committee so we shall be looking for someone to take his place.

The AGM will be held as usual at the February meeting when membership is due for renewal. Our Treasurer, Derek Hill, informs us that our finances are in a very healthy state so that we can reduce the membership fee to £5 for 2015 (£7.50 if you wish to order the Third Age Magazine).

As New Year is traditionally a time for resolutions and, in the spirit of U3A, why not think about learning something new, starting a new group or joining the committee? You can find a nomination form for Committee members on page 13 of the newsletter.

Margaret McDermott

**FROM THE EDITOR**

This is your newsletter so please help me to make it interesting to read. Items for the newsletter from members are always welcome so if you have any suggestions for content or articles of interest to U3A members please contact me at [newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk)

**The next edition of the newsletter will be the March edition. Please can you get your contributions to me by Friday 27 February?**

# Happy New Year

**GROUP LEADERS**

**Please would all 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 Sue Harlin.**

The list of U3A Subject Advisors is still expanding. They produce documents and newsletters that may be useful for your groups. Each advisor has a web page in the Member Area pages on [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk). Contact details are also in the Winter 2014 issue of Third Age Matters magazine.

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## U3A PROGRAMME OF SPEAKERS FOR 2015

14 Jan	Sheila Dale THE EDDIE STOBART STORY
11 Feb	AGM
11 March	Sue Beesley HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS AND ALL YEAR COLOUR
8 April	Tony and Margaret Glynn THE HIGH LANE U3A SINGING GROUP + U3A SPEAKERS
13 May	Keith Vigurs MYSTERY SHOPPING
10 June	Ray Ashton WONDERS OF WOOD
8 July	Glenys Hopkins TV QUIZZES BEHIND THE SCENES
12 August	Glenn Atkinson BUILDING THE BIG DITCH
9 Sept	Pollyanna Pickering THE RED WOLVES OF ETHIOPIA
14 Oct	Geoff Scargill MIRACLE IN MANCHESTER – JOHN BARBIROLI AND THE HALLE
11 Nov	Derek Slater J.B. PRIESTLEY
9 Dec	Clyde Raine and Ukelele Group THE BUS PASS BAND

## ANNUAL LUNCH

**This year's Annual Lunch is on Tuesday 3 March at Disley Golf Club. The cost is £17 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.**

## GROUPS UPDATE

Groups are the lifeblood of the U3A so we are very pleased to report that several new groups have started during 2014. Thanks to the group leaders we now have thriving groups for Backgammon and Mah-jong, a Cinema Club plus a Tai Chi group which although not a U3A group is exclusive to our members. The Lunch Club has been restarted and is attracting new diners. As well as these a new dancing group started in September for 'experienced dancers'. – see the next item for details of this group.

## BALLROOM/LATIN DANCING IMPROVERS

This new group is open to more experienced dancers. We meet fortnightly at 2pm on Fridays in High Lane Village Hall, over 12 week periods. If you are interested, contact Joan Charman 427 2609 (not High Lane), or Sam Chappell/Walter Mason (High Lane).

The programme for Spring 2015 is:

16 January	SAMBA
30 January	TANGO
13 February	CHACHA
27 February	FOXTROT
13 March	MAMBO
27 March	SOCIAL

## NEW RESOURCE FOR HISTORY GROUPS

Ian McCannan, the subject advisor for History has created a website for U3A history groups to share activities and material that could be used for group meetings. The site is at [u3ahistory.wordpress.com](http://u3ahistory.wordpress.com)



## VILLAGE HALL TABLE TOP SALE

Sunday 25th January, 12noon to 2 pm  
High Lane Village Hall, Windlehurst Road  
Tables £8 or £10 on the day

Contact Dorothy Graham

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS****OUR U3A ACTIVITIES**

14 Jan	Monthly meeting. The Eddie Stobart story
11 Feb	AGM
3 March	Annual Lunch. Tickets £17 on sale at Jan meeting.
11 March	Monthly meeting. Herbaceous perennials.

**U3A NORTH WEST REGION ACTIVITIES**

4 June	AGM –Crewe Arms Hotel
1-4 Sept (provisional)	U3A NORTH WEST REGION SUMMER SCHOOL. Newton Rigg College, Penrith. Archaeology, Geology, Creative Writing, Introduction to Digital Photography plus four NEW COURSES: Architecture, Japanese Encounter, Egyptology and Philosophy. Cost Full Board Residential Delegate £300. Day delegate £150 Details from David Joseph on 01625 861327 or at <a href="mailto:davidbjoseph@btopenworld.com">davidbjoseph@btopenworld.com</a>

**U3A NATIONAL EVENTS**

23 March	Royal Institution Lecture. Cost £20
13-16 July	Summer School. Harper Adams University, Shropshire. Subjects include Art appreciation, cinema history, France, maths, philosophy, theatre, writing fiction.

**FORTHCOMING HOLIDAYS AND VISITS**

Contact: Margaret McDermott or Ruth Smith

31 May – 5 June	PERTSHIRE By Coach. Approx £400. Possible visits to Scone Palace, Discovery Point, Glamis Castle, Dundee Botanical Gardens, Angus Folk Museum, Blair Castle. £50 Deposit at January Meeting.
16-20 Aug	STRATFORD By coach. Approx £350. Possible visits to Warwick Castle, Shakespeare Experience, Cotswolds, Althorp House, Coventry Cathedral. £50 Deposit at February Meeting.
6-10 Sept	IRELAND Flight from Manchester to Cork. Approx £460. Possible visits by coach to Cobh Heritage Centre, Bantry House, Ring of Beara, Mizen Head, Garinish Island, Cork Gaol. £50 Deposit at February Meeting

**LOCAL HAPPENINGS**

Now – 15 Jan	Little shop of horrors. Royal Exchange Theatre
13-17 Jan	One man, two governors. Lowry theatre.
22 Jan	Treasure Island. NT Live. Various venues
23-24 Jan	United we stand. Lowry theatre
25 Jan	Table top sale. High Lane Village Hall
25 Jan	Swan Lake. Bolshoi Ballet. Various venues
29 Jan	Andrea Chenier. ROH. Various venues
11 Feb	Love's Labours Lost. RSC Live. Various venues
4 March	Love's Labours Won. RSC Live. Various venues
8 March	Romeo and Juliet. Bolshoi Ballet. Various venues
11 March	La Traviata. ENO. Various venues
12 March	Behind the beautiful forevers. NT Live. Various venues
17 March	Swan Lake. Royal Ballet. Various venues
19 March – 2 May	Anna Karenina. Royal Exchange Theatre

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

The December meeting was once again our traditional Christmas party.

This year, we were entertained by Peter Turner, a magician, who bamboozled us with his magic tricks and sleight of hand.



This was followed by a delicious afternoon tea prepared by the redoubtable team of helpers. Much brain twisting went on trying to solve the fiendish quiz questions set by Walter.



We finished an enjoyable afternoon with some carols led by Margaret Glynn on the piano.

### CURRY AND SOCIAL EVENING



Nearly 100 members gathered at the Village Hall for the curry and social evening on 7 November 2014. On the menu was a choice of chicken curry or hot pot followed by apple pie, all of which were soon demolished. Accompanying the meal we had quizzes on famous faces, 'ologies' and some general knowledge questions. Our thanks to those who set up the room, set the tables and organised the food and entertainment.

Diane Saxon

### LEARN SOMETHING NEW IN 2015

There are many opportunities for learning new skills available 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.

#### WEA COURSES

A number of courses start in January including:

- **Quaker Meeting House, Disley** : Exploring Medieval Townscapes: Shrewsbury and Ludlow, British Literature, Wildlife walks
- **Cheadle Hulme**: Painting and drawing, Ottomans, Crusades, Creative writing, Literature, Digital Photography.

Details at [www.wea.org.uk](http://www.wea.org.uk) or from Rosemary Broadhurst 01625 877255

#### ONLINE MOOCs FOR 2015

FutureLearn has over 30 courses starting in January and February including:

- Managing your money
- The night sky
- Climate change
- British Imperialism
- Shakespeare's Hamlet
- Archeology of Portus
- The Higgs boson
- Moons
- English language and culture

And many more

You will need to register for the course by clicking the Join link on the relevant web page.

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

### U3A MAGAZINE: THIRD AGE MATTERS

The U3A magazine is published five times each year and contains articles and features of interest to U3A members, plus news and information from U3A head office and U3As across the country. You can get the magazine delivered to your home for £2.50 (for all five editions) by subscribing to the magazine when you pay your annual fee.

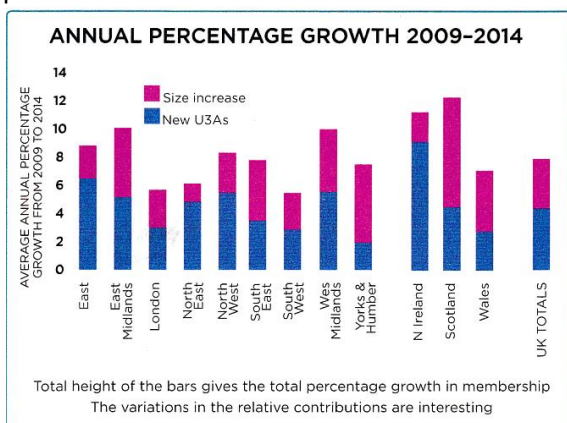




### U3A CONTINUES TO GROW

Membership has grown every year since the U3A was founded 32 years ago and has increased by 8% in the past year. There are now around 340,000 members in the UK. The North West region is the fourth highest in terms of number of members.

The chart shows the growth in membership and in the number of new groups in each of the regions in the period 2009-2014.



### U3A PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2014 "Architectural Britain Old and New"

The entries were judged by Richard Sibley, deputy editor of Amateur Photographer. The winner was Sue Keeling of Kingswinford U3A for her photograph of "Cosford Sunset"



### CHRISTMAS FACTS AND FIGURES – The UK uses:

100 tonnes of sprouts	10 million turkeys
A billion Christmas cards	6 million Christmas trees
20 million crackers	100 million mince pies
6 million jars cranberry	12 million jars pickles

### REMEMBERING 2014

How much do you remember about 2014?  
Answers are on page 12.

**January:** Which country joined the Eurozone?

**February:** Who won Gold in the women's skeleton at the winter Olympics?

**March:** Which film won the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature?

**April:** Where was struck by an earthquake of magnitude 8.2?

**May:** Who won the Eurovision song contest?

**June:** Where did King Juan Carlos abdicate? And who is now the ruler?

**July:** What was going on in Glasgow this month?

**August:** What was the stage name of the film star Betty Joan Perske who died this month?

**September:** Where did they go to the polls?

**October:** Which country staged its first Grand Prix?

**November:** What is 67P? Why was it in the news?

**December:** What was the name of the café where the siege took place in Sydney?

### SENIOR MOMENTS?

Thanks to Derek Jones for these (and many more!)

Despite the high cost of living, it remains popular.

Money isn't everything, but it sure keeps the kids in touch.

It's not the dying that bothers me; it's the not being here anymore.

I feel like the morning after... and I can swear I didn't go anywhere.

Take my advice. I'm not using it.

No one is ever old enough to know better.

If you think there's good in everybody, you haven't met everybody.

Ever stop to think and forget to start again?

Everyone is entitled to my opinion.

I intend to live forever. So far so good.

"Incontinence Hotline....Can you hold please?"

Why has everyone started mumbling?

I have one nerve left...and you're getting on it!

"Happy Hour" is a nap.

I'm not "Over the Hill." I don't even remember being on top of it.

## GROUP REPORTS

### BACKGAMMON

The backgammon group is alive and kicking and would welcome any new members. Backgammon is a great game, faster and less intense than chess, but much more involved than Ludo!



We meet on the first and third Wednesday of every month, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, at the Royal Oak pub in High Lane. Our next meeting is on 21 January. If anyone is interested, please contact me.

Ron Barrow

### BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 1 & 2

#### November Meeting

Prog 1: At our November meeting we enjoyed a documentary featuring "Tamara Rojo" who is now the Director of the English National Ballet. Melvyn Bragg had a very interesting chat with this superb ballerina and there were quite a few ballet excerpts to enjoy.

Prog 2: We watched a compilation of Ballet Clips as follows:

1. "Mahler's 3rd Symphony" beautifully danced to a lovely piece of music.
2. "Onegin" Excerpts" (quite a dark story but great dancing).
3. "The Fairy Doll" (first danced by Anna Pavlova) now in the Vaganova Ballet Company's repertoire (this is a charming little ballet).
4. "Don Quixote" PDD (danced by the Cuban Ballet's young principal dancers).

#### December Meeting

This was our Christmas meeting and we all enjoyed a Glass of Buck's Fizz and a promise of Mince pies and Christmas cake at our Tea and Coffee break. The Ballets were as follows:

Prog1: "Petrushka" – Music by Igor Stravinsky. This is an unusual short ballet, beautifully danced, very lively and colourful and full of snowy scenes; just what we want for a Christmas ballet.

Prog 2: We finished our afternoon off with a medley of extracts from Christmas Ballets as follows:

1. "A Christmas Carol"
2. "The Snow Queen"
3. "Flower Waltz" from "The Nutcracker"
4. "Swan Lake Adagio" (Rojo & Makhatelli)
5. Lake Scene from "Swan Lake"
6. "The Snowflake Waltz" (an extract from Matthew Bourne's "Nutcracker").

Sheila Hall

### BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 3 & 4

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

**7<sup>th</sup> November / 4<sup>th</sup> December:** The programme was a mixed bill, featuring the Royal Ballet and former principal dancer Deborah Bull.

The documentary '**Dance Ballerina, Dance**' discussed the role of women in ballet, with examples from the work of five important choreographers, (all male). This was followed by a short, but important piece: **Concerto**, set to music by Shostakovich.

We finished with a contrast: **Still Life at the Penguin Café** – apparently light and entertaining, but really focussing on the destruction of our environment and the animal kingdom.

**7<sup>th</sup> January / 8<sup>th</sup> January:** These meetings were rescheduled because of the Christmas period. We saw a recent production of the Royal Ballet's Nutcracker.

The next session will feature Ballet in Russia, with a look at some examples from the Kirov Ballet.

Meg Humphries

**CHURCHES AND PUB****ST MARY, ROSTHERNE**

Our visit to St Mary, Rostherne was on a beautiful Autumn day. Rostherne village is mentioned in the Domesday Book; documents show that



a church existed on this site in 1188. The church is Grade 1 listed and stands in a pleasant position overlooking Rostherne Mere. It originally served the townships of High Legh, Marthall cum Warford, Mere, Millington, Over Peover, Over Tabley, Rostherne and Snelson.

In 1976 the right of presenting clergy to be appointed as vicar or rector was purchased by the Egerton family of Tatton Park from the Venables of Kinderton.

The oldest part of the church is on the left of the nave and has sandstone pillars and round capitals dating from around 1200. The rest of the church dates from around 1525. The nave was reorganised in 1888 when stained glass windows were donated by the Lister family of Agden hall. The chapel nearest the altar is the eighteenth century Egerton Chapel. Next to this is the Mere Chapel, used by the owners of Mere Hall. The Agden Chapel was used by the Lister family and has its own private entrance to the church. The ring of bells is reputed to be the heaviest set of six in Cheshire; the oldest bell was cast in 1630.

After our visit, we retired to the Railway Inn, Mobberley where we had an excellent lunch. A very enjoyable day, expertly organized by Paul.

Carina Redmond

The programme for 2015 is

- 1 April St. Wilfred's Standish
- 3 June All Saints Brailsford near Ashbourne.
- 1 July St. Andrews church Slaidburn Lancashire.
- 7 Oct St. Mary and All Saints, Checkley, Staffs.
- 4 Nov St. Marys Acton near Crewe.
- 2 Dec St. Michael Taddington Derbyshire.

Paul Kenneth

**CINEMA CLUB**

We had three visits to the Regent Marple in the period up to Christmas

- Oct 22nd "Gone Girl" definitely not for the squeamish!!
- Nov19th "Imitation Game". Everyone thoroughly enjoyed this .
- Dec 3rd "Mr Turner". Opinions were divided.

We will continue to support our local cinema in 2015. The next film we are going to see is "The Theory Of Everything" on 7 January. Some new films we hope to see include "Testament of Youth" and the "Second Exotic Marigold Hotel".

We welcome new members and new ideas. Helpful suggestions of any kind are always welcome.

Sheila Harrop

**CROWN GREEN BOWLING**

The winners of the last Autumn 2014 Pairs Competition were Judith Ridgway and Andre Lister and the runners up were Bill Joslyn and Barbara Farmer. It was a very



enjoyable morning which was followed by lunch in the restaurant of the Fiveways on Macclesfield Road.

The last few weeks have been rather wet for our bowlers except some very hardy ones who will play no matter what the weather throws at us but we are all really looking forward to starting 2015 with a little better weather.

Both groups are continuing to maintain sufficient numbers to get a good mix of games on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings which should continue throughout the year ahead. It has been suggested that we repeat our Spring Luncheon again in 2015 and this date will be advised in a few weeks time.

Margaret Evans

### CRAFT AND NEEDLEWORK GROUP

We held a successful sale and raffle at the November general meeting and were able to send a cheque for £120 to Macmillan Cancer Support. Many thanks to all those members who supported us so generously.

The group will next meet on Thursday, 22nd January.

Marlene Brooks

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### CURRENT AFFAIRS GROUP

The group met on the 26th Nov and commented on the following news items:

First item on the agenda was the treatment by the news media of the Leader of the Opposition. Not a word about his policies, it was all about the more important fact that he had trouble eating a bacon sandwich. It seems that he held the sandwich away from his body whilst biting into it. Gosh! Hold the front page!

The next item on our list was the news that British citizens are going to Syria under the mistaken impression that they would be fighting the oppressive Assad regime. They became very disillusioned when they discovered that they were fighting other groups who claimed also to be fighting Assad. They were and are utterly confused as to who the real enemy is and what is motivating the various disparate groups. So they have expressed a desire to return to the UK. But many people have objected to allowing them back on the grounds that they may have become 'radicalised'.

We all agreed that this is a reasonable suspicion to have but what do we do with them? They cannot be deprived of their British citizenship and they cannot be detained indefinitely so what is the solution? One of the group suggested the solution which the Danes have adopted might be tried. They have allowed the Jihadists back into Denmark and are subjecting them to de-radicalising treatment. Does it work? We didn't know.

The next item was the election of two UKIP candidates (defectors from the Conservative party) and the question raised was why the voters cast their votes for UKIP? Well the leader of UKIP is a very convincing person. It cannot be denied that Nigel

Farage has class, charisma, panache, a superabundance of loquacity and always tells his audience what they want to hear. He also has lots of scary statistics and frightening facts which he quotes ad nauseam without bothering also to quote the sources, which made some of the group think that he invents them to suit the audience's particular prejudices. He associates himself with the ordinary person and is usually interviewed in that icon of Britishness, the Pub, with a glass of beer in one hand and a lighted cigarette in the other. Unfortunately, he is a one trick pony and is unique amongst politicians in that all his energies seem to be directed to making all his UKIP MEPs unemployed which will be the result of winning a referendum to come out of the EU. So if he wins the referendum what will happen to his Party? Does he have a hidden agenda?

Jim McDermott

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### FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

The group continues with its WW1 discoveries but not to the exclusion of all other aspects of our family history. We have recently looked at ancestors who were in the workhouse for various reasons and at our final meeting before Christmas members brought along a number of items of interest that belonged to their family. My contribution was my grandmother's tin opener but we also had a very ancient bottle of smelling salts, a mug celebrating the end of WW1 and many other pieces of memorabilia.

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 are always happy to welcome new members to the group and happily help newcomers with or without previous experience so please come and join us if you want to find out more about your ancestors. You can contact Sue Harlin or me if you are uncertain of what is involved.



## FAMILY HISTORY PROGRAMME SPRING 2015

Thursday 8th January	House
Thursday 22nd January	School
Thursday 12th February	School
Thursday 26th February	House
Thursday 12th March	School
Thursday 26th March	House

Pat Christopher

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## GERMAN GROUP

The German group rounded off the year with our annual Christmas meal at the Wycliffe Hotel in Edgeley. A group of 16 including members of the group, spouses and associates enjoyed an excellent lunch and stimulating company with some already wishing to book for next year. The German group will next meet on Friday 16th January.



Marlene Brooks

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## HISTORY GROUP

## NOVEMBER MEETING

For this meeting, each member of the group selected any year of their choosing, prior to 1938, and prepared a five minute talk on important or interesting events of that year. The following years were chosen:- 1670, 1652, 186BC, 1902, 1833, 1928, 1912, 1847 and 1900. Some of the topics covered were William Penn, Archimedes, the end of slavery and the introduction of restricted working hours for children and the Boer War, so we had a very varied and interesting discussion.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 7th January 2015, 7.30pm at Irene Bentley's and the topic will be Historical Moral Dilemmas.

Pam Curley

## HOLIDAYS AND VISITS

## LUDLOW VISIT, NOVEMBER 2014

Well worth visiting was Blists Hill Victorian Town taking us back in time; there was the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker as well as a really good fish and chip shop! - guess what some of us had for lunch. The rate of exchange was not good at the old bank; one old shilling was worth £4.80; talk about galloping inflation.

The Shropshire discovery centre was good fun riding in a pretend hot air balloon and viewing the beautiful hills and countryside without moving an inch. A sight to behold was the replica skeleton of the mammoth and living quarters of cavemen.

The Ludlow Medieval Fayre was extremely busy; lots to see here from Falconry to Jesters, Knights in their armour, the Quire (I think they could have done with some help from our U3A Choir). The artists lacked a good P.A. system and they could not be heard over the noise of the visitors at times.

On our last day we enjoyed a wonderful steam train ride on the Severn Valley Railway through the countryside. We were greeted at Kidderminster Station by the Station Master and staff in their smart uniforms. The



concourse was decorated in readiness for the Santa Express as were most of the other stations we passed through en route to Bridgnorth. Bridgnorth is a very old town of two halves, Low Town and High Town; the River Severn divides the town and provides lovely walks by the river. The old Victorian Funicular is the steepest inland funicular in the UK and connects the two halves of the town. The old Town Hall built in the 17th century is being restored but is open to the public free of charge. It has some very beautiful stained glass windows and oak paneled walls. It contains a meeting room and a court room and is well worth a visit.

In the words of John Masefield (from Tewkesbury Road):-

*It is good to be out on the road, and going one knows not where,  
Going through meadow and village, one knows not whither or why;*

*Through the grey light drift of the dust, in the  
keen cool rush of the air,  
Under the flying white clouds, and the broad  
blue lift of the sky*

June Gibbs

See page 3 for this year's holidays. We are also planning several day visits but information on these is not yet available.

### LUNCH CLUB

The Hanging Gate at Chapel en le Frith is the most decorated pub in England and this is where we chose to go for our Christmas lunch. The whole place is transformed into a snow grotto with thousands of baubles and lights decorating every surface and ceiling.

Throughout our meal we were entertained by a gentleman playing the piano in the background and as we relaxed over coffee the festive party atmosphere continued with a quiz and a game of bingo. High Lane U3A did not let the side down as a member of our party won the quiz and another the bingo, overcoming opposition from a group from Buxton who were sharing the event with us. The afternoon ended with carol singing and by the time we left we were all full of the Christmas spirit.

Our next lunch is in February and we will take names at the January meeting. If you wish to join us but can't make the meeting please contact us by phone.

Jeanette Bell  
Dorothy Neillands

### OPERA APPRECIATION GROUP

At our November meeting, we watched a recording from 2009, of the Royal Opera's staging of La Traviata, with Renee Fleming as Violetta.

As a contrast, at our December meeting, we saw the New York Metropolitan Opera production of The Enchanted Island. This new work is a fantasy which combines the situations and characters from Shakespeare's plays The Tempest and A Midsummer Night's Dream, set to music by a mixture of Baroque

composers, and very cleverly scripted by Jeremy Sams. It was very amusing, sung in English (slightly American sometimes), and performed to the Met's highest standards.

The next session will feature a performance of Nabucco from the Arena di Verona.

Meg Humphries

### PHILOSOPHY GROUP

The December meeting of the Philosophy group was spent trying to do the quizzes created by John, Michael and Diane. None of these were easy and we needed help from various seasonal goodies and Irene's sherry. The first meeting of 2015 is on 12 January when John is talking about Justice and the work of Michael Sandel.

Diane Saxon

### PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

#### NOVEMBER MEETING

Our November meeting discussed the problems of night photography. Diane's lovely night shot in Salford Quays was adjudged the obvious best, with Walter's pictures of Old Town Square, Prague, and Christmas Markets, Manchester being second and third.



At this meeting, we welcomed Tony Cummings to our group, and hope he will continue. We also agreed next year's programme.

#### DECEMBER MEETING

The subject of the competition for December was Reflections. Brian Becks' photo taken in the Caribbean was adjudged the winner with Diane's shots of Salford Quays and Chengde being second and third.



Our next meeting is on 15 January when we will be looking at unusual shots of everyday items.

Walter Mason

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#### SHAKESPEARE GROUP

We completed the reading of Henry 1V (Part 1) at our December meeting. As a break from history our next play will be "The Merry Wives of Windsor" starting on Monday 12 Jan before returning to Part 2 of Henry 1V. The February meeting is Monday 23 Feb. All three plays feature the redoubtable character of Sir John Falstaff.

We have also arranged a trip to the RSC at Stratford in August to see two plays: an evening performance of Othello and a matinee of The Merchant of Venice.

As a house group we are getting near capacity with 14 members but please have a word with me if you wish to join us – reading Shakespeare is good for you and more fun than you might think!

Steve Reynolds

#### SINGING GROUP

The group enjoyed a Christmas meal at the Ram's Head after our last practice on 9th December. We start back on 9th January to practise in earnest for the concert for the U3A meeting on the 8th April. We are preparing a mixed programme including songs by Abba and Simon and Garfunkel. A couple of spirituals are included and some old favourites from our repertoire; added to this are a modern piece and a classical item. We hope you will enjoy our performance in April.

Pam Wood

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#### WALKING GROUP

##### WALK REPORT NOVEMBER 2014

Only nine came on David Lloyd's five mile walk, perhaps put off by the forecast of rain, which never materialised. After a still, slightly chilly start we walked along a quiet lane past Hagbank to the Peak Forest Canal.

Soon, gentle steps took us down past Littlewooden d and Strines Village, to a coffee stop (with seats!)



overlooking the printworks site.

Off again northwestwards, we were parallel to the River Goyt and railway, with pleasant views of Marple Ridge and Ridgend, and a little mud at times, until we reached Strawberry Hill and crossed the lovely Roman Bridge. A modest climb following the Cown Edge Way took us across Strines Road and up to Turf Lea, now well warmed as the weather got steamy. Then it was past a lone chimney and Stanley Hall Wood up onto Disley Golf Course, dodging their winter reparations; where a quick downhill took us to the White Horse, and substantial pensioners' lunches.

All in all, a very pleasant walk, which was well rounded off by convivial chat, and our thanks to David.



DECEMBER 2014



The final walk of 2014 was led by Roger Drinkwater when 15 of us threaded our way through the Poynton traffic queues to the Hanging Gate pub, at Higher Sutton beyond Macclesfield. One of the highest pubs in the district at 1100 feet, and a pub since 1621, it was shrouded in a thick Cheshire mist as we descended the "Quiet Lane" towards the forest; streaming water everywhere - a legacy of torrential overnight rain. An erratic breeze was warding off the rain, as we went up and down and roundabout in the tall Macclesfield Forest trees on well laid footpaths, to reach the visitor centre, with plenty of seating while we had our coffee stop.

New paths created by Ridgeway reservoir gave us a view of cormorants on an artificial islet, but by the dam we turned left and down a flight of steps, made tricky with wet leaves and mud. From here the route was along the waymarked Gritstone Trail, and followed fieldpaths back to the pub, but the going was much tougher on the slippery grass, and we had to regain lost height. We saw workmen – but not improving the path – instead they were making a skillfully rebuilt drystone wall, in keeping with a recently renovated former farm!

The dry mist was gradually being replaced by a wet mist, so we were glad to recover by a hot fire, with a panoramic view from the dining room window – alas, only of thick mist, not the advertised view of beautiful countryside. But the walk had been very pleasant, so we thanked Roger for that, but not before he had thanked Walter for leading the group during the year.

Our first walk of 2015 is on 13 January.

Walter Mason

Please don't forget to send all contributions for the next newsletter to me at [newsletteditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletteditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk) by Friday 27 February 2015. Thank you

Diane Saxon

#### Remembering 2014 answers

January: Latvia  
 February: Lizzy Yarnold  
 March: Frozen  
 April: Chile  
 May: Concita Wurst for Austria  
 June: Spain. Felipe IV  
 July: Commonwealth Games  
 August: Lauren Bacall  
 September: Scotland  
 October: Russia  
 November: a comet; the target of the Rosetta spacecraft  
 December: Lindt café



**HIGH LANE U3A COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS FOR 2015**

The Committee for 2015 is to be elected at the AGM on 11 February 2015.

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 14 January 2015.

Please cut: .....

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