

**FROM THE CHAIR**

Hard to believe that my first year as Chair is nearly over! I'd like to start by wishing everyone a happy, peaceful and especially a healthy New Year. This year has seen a number of members with serious illnesses and we wish them improved health in 2018.

It has been a busy year with some new groups and a range of social activities for which I must thank the Committee and the group leaders for all that they do on your behalf. We also have lots of help from volunteers at meetings and social events which is much appreciated. If you have ideas for social events that you would like us to arrange please let me know.

We have some committee members standing down this year so we will need replacements. Please think about joining the committee. It is not an onerous task; it is a good way to get to know more of our members and can be rewarding and enjoyable. Nomination forms were in the November newsletter or can be downloaded from the Committee page of our website. We will also have forms available at the January meeting. Election of the committee for this year will take place at the AGM on 14 February.

Membership is due for renewal at the February AGM meeting. Membership fees for 2018 will remain at the current level of £6 (£8.50 if you wish to order the Third Age Magazine which is posted to you). This is still very low in comparison with other U3As.

Diane Saxon

**GROUP NEWS**

On the same theme we are always looking to start new groups. Hand bell ringing is thriving, Ron Barrow has started the Trivial Pursuit group and their second meeting is in January. We also are currently making arrangements for a Bridge beginners group – see page 2 for more details of this.

Organising a group is not onerous and can be shared. We find that many groups share the work between the members who can each organize a session.

If you have an idea for a group please talk to Doreen Scotte, our Groups co-ordinator.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**



Sunrise in Hazel Grove on 26 December

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**IMPORTANT - 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 Pam Curley.

**FROM THE EDITOR**

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 2018 edition. Please get your contributions to me by Friday 23 February.

### NOVEMBER MEETING: QUESTION TIME

The format of the meeting was based on the BBC TV programme Question Time. Members of the Current Affairs group took part with Margaret McDermott as Question Master. Les Birks also joined the team as illness reduced our numbers. The other participants were Marlene Brookes, Mavis Dean, Pat Gorie and Trevor Kinvig.

Some of the questions asked were: Does the media have an undue influence on public opinion, should euthanasia be legalised and which person from History would you like to meet?

The meeting ended with a brief report from Richard Jones, Chair of High Lane Neighbourhood Forum giving an update on neighbourhood issues.

Margaret McDermott

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

The December meeting was once again our traditional Christmas party. Rebecca Done gave us a run through her 'Life in Music' interspersed with recordings from her CDs and some Christmas songs. The highlight of the afternoon was the delicious afternoon tea prepared by the redoubtable team of helpers.

The afternoon ended with a rendition of Marys' Boy Child led by Walter Mason to send us home with the festive spirit.

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### CAROL SERVICE

High Lane U3A held its second carol service on 14 December at St. Thomas' Church. The Singing Group led the singing of the carols and Walter Mason sang a solo. After the service members and friends gathered for mince pies and cake in the Church Hall.

Margaret McDermott

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### MUSIC EVENING FRIDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2017 AN EVENING WITH NANCY ANN LEE

Approximately 90 people enjoyed an evening of music and in some cases dancing to the voice of multi award winning singer songwriter Nancy Ann Lee.

The evening started with a meal of salmon or lasagne supplied by Peter at Reflections followed by we a nice slice of apple pie and cream before getting to the main point of the night.

The first half of the music side of the evening was country and western with Nancy Ann giving a very strong and professional performance. After a short break Nancy came back on stage in full 60's attire and entertained us with many 60s hits including Sandy Shaw, little Eva and other hits from the decade that we all remember. The evening had a real party atmosphere with dancing in the aisles and at one time even the conga.



An excellent and entertaining evening was had by all and many thanks to all those involved in setting the event up and taking down the tables etc at the end.

Les Birks

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### BEGINNERS' BRIDGE GROUP

We've been trying to get this organized for some time and I'm pleased to report that we now have enough people to start the group. **This group is for people who have not played before and wish to learn.**



Arrangements re venue and cost are still being finalised but we are looking to start mid January and run for 10 weeks on Tuesday afternoons. Each session will include tuition on an aspect of play followed by supervised play. Sessions will be led by Steve Reynolds with assistance from members of the Monday Bridge group.

**The list is not closed; if you wish to join this group please speak to me at the January meeting or contact me before then by email or phone.**

Diane Saxon

**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 national 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.

**1000 MILE WALKING MEDAL WINNER**



At the start of 2017, High Lane U3A Walking Group member Merlyn Young resolved to walk 1000 miles during the year. He achieved his 1000 miles with time to spare on 5 November 2017; some feat, or should that be feet!

His medal was awarded by Country Walking Magazine. Merlyn's wife Joyce accompanied him on some of the walks covering a total of 718 miles.

Many congratulations to both of them. This is a great achievement and a worthy example to the rest of us. Well, it is a time of year for new resolutions!

The Latin inscription on the medal reads :-  
AMBULO ERGO SUM (I walk therefore I am)

David Burke

**HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEB SITE RECENTLY?**

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

Jeff Mortimer has taken over as Webmaster and has updated our website with a smart new look. If you have not visited the site recently why not have a look and see what you think.



The website is the place to go for up to date information about your U3A and your groups. You can access documents and membership forms and can also read the all the newsletters here.

Of course the website relies on the group leaders sending their information to the webmaster so the site can be kept up to date.

If there are things you would like to see on the website please let Jeff know. You can contact him at [webmaster@highlaneu3a.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@highlaneu3a.org.uk)

**TV PROGRAMME**

A television company called Shiver Productions is developing a new television programme for a major broadcaster. They are looking for fun and outgoing grandparents who have three or more adult (18+) grandchildren who they would like to spend more time with. In the programme, grandparents will spend one-on-one time with their multiple grandchildren to get to know them better and see if they can offer any help.

More details from [shivercasting@shiver.tv](mailto:shivercasting@shiver.tv) or call 0207 157 4588.

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS****2018 MEETINGS**

Meetings start on 10 January 2018 with a talk by Peter Sykes entitled 'DIY Surgery'. The February meeting is our AGM.

10 January	D.I.Y Surgery: Peter Sykes
14 February	AGM
14 March	Growing Old Disgracefully: Edwina Currie
11 April	Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela: Noel Moroney
9 May	Two Queens and a Countess: David Templeman
13 June	How Manchester Cotton Wired up to the World: Nigel Linge
11 July	The World of an Illustrator: William Geldart
8 August	The Mercy Ships: Frances King
11 September	The Jewish Way of Life: Barbara Fraser
10 October	Disney and the Music: Brian Green
14 November	Amazing Women Pilots: Victor Crawford
12 December	Christmas Party

**ANNUAL LUNCH**

This year's Annual Lunch will be in April. Tickets cost £20 and will be on sale at the February and March meetings.

**FORTHCOMING TRAVEL GROUP EVENTS**

Contact: Margaret McDermott or Ruth Smith

21 April	SKIPTON. £18. Tour of Skipton Castle Book at January meeting.
12- 14 May 2018	Weekend in the SHREWSBURY Area. £200 pp £42 ss
2-8 June	DORSET. Fully booked. Waiting list. Balance at March meeting.
September	Ireland. Details soon.
October	Budapest. Details soon.

**NATIONAL AND REGIONAL U3A EVENTS**

27 Jan	Greater Manchester Network of U3As Study Day. Cottonopolis. Manchester <a href="https://cottonopolis.weebly.com/">https://cottonopolis.weebly.com/</a>
19 March	U3A at the RI. An afternoon of talks on subjects ranging from materials science to calculating colour. £20. Book via U3A National webiste.
28-31 Aug	Summer School. Newton Rigg Agricultural College.

**LOCAL HAPPENINGS**

Now – 13 Jan	Stockport Art Guild exhibition. Stockport Art Gallery.
10 Jan	Disley flower club demonstration. High Lane Village hall
13 Jan	St George's Singers Perform Handel's Messiah. Norbury Church
15 Jan	Hazel Grove gardening club. Talk 'Friends of Torkington Park'. St Peter's church, Hazel Grove.
18 Jan	Lyme cage walk. Lyme Park
27 Jan	Stockport Symphony Orchestra. Town Hall
29 Jan	Lunchtime Organ concert. Stockport Town Hall
15 Feb	RSC Encore. Twelfth Night. Various venues
16 Feb	Wellspring quiz night. Stockport Grammar School
24 Feb	Organ coffee morning. Stockport Plaza

**ROMILEY COMPUTER GROUP**

A new computer group will run weekly from Monday, 8 January 2018 to Monday 19 March inclusive with one week half term holiday on Monday 19 February. The group will be held in the IT department of Romiley Primary School, Sandy Lane, Romiley and will run from 4pm to 6pm. The course caters for absolute beginners to improvers.

If you wish to attend the course please contact Mrs K P Bradley on 430 4259

### ACTIVE LOCAL RESEARCH – 'COTTONOPOLIS'

The U3A Greater Manchester Network of U3As has been developing a research project entitled Cottonopolis, aimed at encouraging coordinated research activity among its constituent U3As. This is an exciting venture organized in which we are seeking the collaboration of the University of Manchester. The phenomenon of the world's first industrial city – known as 'Cottonopolis' since 1812 – astonished everyone then, and its affect is still rippling outwards today.

We'd like to invite members of U3As in the network to join in local research, with a view to contributing their results towards a larger shared outcome. Under the strands of Technology, Society, Politics, Aesthetics, there are a number of themes such as transport, history, art, health studies etc that could form the subject for some local research. There is a short booklet of activity ideas which you can download from:

<https://cottonopolis.weebly.com/>

Don't be put off; anyone can do research. Research doesn't necessarily mean dry academic research which can only be done by people with university degrees. Any member of U3A can be an active researcher. In fact, if you've ever planned anything – like a holiday or the purchase of a new item – then, chances are you've done a spot of research of your own, maybe even without realising it. U3A members have long memories... which is precisely what makes us good prospects for learning through historical research. Many U3As are engaging in research in their local area. The North West U3A website has a section where many of these projects are described.

Please discuss in your groups and consider how or your group or you as an individual might participate in this special project, which seeks to take advantage of our unique geographical location. There are contact details in the booklet but please let a High Lane Committee member know if you are planning to get involved.

**A good starting point would be to attend the study day on 27 January – see the flier.** There is more information about the study day in the booklet. All interested members of network U3As are cordially invited. The cost is £5 to include lunch.

Note that you need to book and the closing date is 22 January.

Greater Manchester Network





**The Cottonopolis Project**

**A Greater Manchester U3A Network Study Day**  
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018, 10.00am – 4.00pm

Cross Street Chapel, Cross Street, Manchester, M2 1NL

partly funded by the Third Age Trust

- A day-long workshop for all members of the U3A Greater Manchester Network to find out more about involvement in the 'Cottonopolis' project. No experience necessary
- Useful information is attached to this flyer and more is available on the project's website: <https://cottonopolis.weebly.com>
- Participants will be able to choose a morning and afternoon break-out workshop

**PROGRAMME**

10.00	Coffee and registration
10.30	Welcome
10.45	Keynote speaker – Dr Mary Searle-Chatterjee, retired Social Anthropologist, Centre for Applied South Asian Studies, University of Manchester and member of Lancaster U3A 'Lancashire Textiles and the Indian connection'
11.30-12.45	First Workshop
12.45-13.45	Buffet Lunch
13.45-15.00	Second Workshop
15.00-16.00	Closing Plenary Session

**Workshops** – led by members of Greater Manchester Network Steering Group. Please choose 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> preferences. You will be allocated 2 out of the 3:

1. **Textiles and fabrics** – the magic of cotton, wool, linen and silk
2. **Urban drawing and photography** – interpreting industrial landscapes
3. **Inventing Manchester** – sites, themes and resources
4. **Social and family history** – people and places
5. **Creative arts** – visualising and narrating Manchester's industrial revolution
6. **Transport and social conditions** – canals, railways, factories, health
7. **The international dimension** – Manchester's world impact

**Apply online**, entering *three* workshop selections:

<https://u3a-cottonopolis-project.eventbrite.co.uk/>

or, by telephone: Jenny on 01244 680460

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS – 22nd January 2018**

**Payment of £5.00 per member (to include tea/coffee and sandwich lunch) is required to secure a place**

## GROUP REPORTS

### ART GROUP

We start again on Thursday 11th Jan.2018. Please come and join us from 1.30 pm till 4 pm - even if you haven't painted or drawn for years. We have brews and top biscuits and we paint as well.



We are very sociable and friendly. We have all the kit you won't have to bring anything with you.

Brian Chadwick

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### BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 3 AND 4

The usual two meetings were reduced to one for each of these sessions, because the demands of the Christmas period caused many cancellations.

22nd November:

We watched a production of Swan Lake from La Scala, Milan. This is a different, earlier version from the one danced in this country. It featured some excellent soloists, some of whom we have seen in other ballets. I was particularly impressed by the corps de ballet.

4th January:

This session featured an old recording of the American Ballet Theatre in The Nutcracker. This was choreographed by Mikhail Baryshnikov, who danced the combined role of The Nutcracker / Prince. We also saw some short pieces by Matthew Bourne.

For our next meeting we will look at the origins of ballet, and its development in America.

Meg Humphries

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### BRIDGE GROUP - WEDNESDAY

The Wednesday bridge group continues to meet at Hazel Grove Bowling and Tennis Club on Wednesday morning. We play alternate Duplicate and Chicago.

The group has lost a few players this year for various reasons and would welcome new players.

Contact Joan Waters if you would like to join us.

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## CANASTA

Following the closure of our local hostelry we have had to temporarily move to the Horseshoe Inn for our Tuesday night games of Canasta. A decision on where we will meet in 2018 will be made sometime in the New Year.



In the meantime, on Friday 8 December we decided to find another King in our pack of cards in the form of the Indian Elvis; an evening of music at Perugia.

Thirteen of us enjoyed a Christmas social in the form of a meal followed by the music of The King, Elvis Presley, some of us even joining in with an interpretation of what can only be described as "Bollywood Elvis".....dont ask !!!!!

For further information please contact me.

Les Birks

## CHURCHES AND PUBS

### November

Our November outing took us to the quaint village of Hognaston and the gem of a parish church, St Bartholomew's. We were welcomed by Mike Dennison and enjoyed refreshments before hearing about the history of the church.

St Bartholomew's was built in Norman times and is accessed from the lych gate through an attractive avenue of lime trees. The beautiful archway just inside the main door has some interesting sculptures.

Originally the church was just used for worship; no christenings, weddings or funerals took place. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century the living was sold to the Lord of the Manor who appointed the first minister. One of the oldest inhabitants of the village had recorded memories of previous vicars, one of whom having been a cox in the rowing crew at Cambridge, had the prow of a boat in the living room at the vicarage!



The tower has two bells, one of which is claimed to be the oldest in Derbyshire, but these are no longer rung as they have been replaced by a clock and three bells. During a restoration in 1879 the pulpit was replaced and is adorned with some beautiful Blue John stones. Emblematic tiles were placed in the sanctuary and later the stained-glass window depicting St Bartholomew, the crucifixion and St Joseph was added. The church has had

many benefactors throughout its history, people who have bequeathed money in their wills for the poor of the parish. Money acquired from the sale of the school and the vicarage has enabled the partitioning of the main body of the church to create a meeting room.

Today the church is a thriving concern and provides well for its parishioners with many activities throughout the year; regular coffee mornings, concerts, a flower festival, Christmas tree festival and the meeting room is used by many groups.

The small and peaceful churchyard has a wonderful view of Carsington Water. We retired to the Red Lion public house, conveniently next door, for our lunch. Thanks to Paul and Barbara for organising the outing.

Lynn Arnold

### December

On 8 December, the last trip of 2017, we visited All Saints Church, Odd Rhod. The church is in the village of Scholar Green and is an active Anglican Church in the Deanery of Congleton. Ronald Wilbraham of Rode Hall commissioned the architect Gilbert Scott to draw up plans for the church. The design was late C13th style, a Gothic revival style. The builder was John Gallimore and the foundation stone was laid in June 1863. Stone was used from the quarries at Mow Cop and Kerridge. Gallimore, who was also a joiner made the timber roof and pews.



The church was opened in 1864 having taken just a year to complete. The Chantry, (behind the choir stalls) is where the Wilbraham family still sit on a Sunday. Here can be seen a stone rosette from the church of St Vladimir in the Crimea, which was sent back by Randle's brother Richard during the war. Randle and Sibbella Wilbraham's memorial is the marble reredos behind the altar. It was installed in 1887 and is a representation of Leonardo da Vinci's 'The Last Supper'. In February 1967 the church was designated as a World Heritage Site.

After looking around we then travelled the short distance to The Rising Sun Pub in Scholar Green where we had a wonderful meal. If you are in the area this pub is a must. Unfortunately, Paul was unable to do this trip due to being unwell.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported this group and thanks to all the people who provided lifts.

Barbara Kenneth

### Programme for 2018

March 7th	New church, Warburton.
April.	Holiday.
May 2nd	St. Laurence, Walton-on-Trent.
June	Holiday
July 4th.	St. Michaels, Shotwick.
Aug.	No visit
Sept 5th	St. Lawrence, Whitwell.
Oct 3rd	St. Bartholomew, Wilmslow.
Nov 7th	St. Annes, Turton.
Dec 5th	St. Wilfreds Davenham

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### NOVEMBER

We discussed whether gender specific toys should be separated in primary schools and were unanimous in thinking that this should not be done. Children should be allowed to make their own choice and there should be no distinction between toys specifically for boys or girls.

We thought that the BBC had raised large donations to charity with the programme for Children In Need and the televising of the Remembrance Day ceremony was excellent. However some members thought that the music played by military bands could be said to glorify war. After all the UK has the largest army in Europe!

A few days ago Bill Cash (arch Brexiteer) stated in Parliament that we should remember the thousands of British who gave their lives in the second world war to keep this country free. He failed to mention the many from other nations, Poles, Australians Americans to name but a few, who fought alongside to bring this about. Couldn't have done it without them!

We discussed the current progress with Brexit. The Irish border is a major problem. Some institutions will be moving from the UK. The Medical Agency which evaluates the safety and effectiveness of medicines and treatments, currently based in Canary Wharf is to move to Amsterdam with the loss of 900 jobs. The European Banking Authority which regulates financial services in the EU is to move to Paris with the loss of 100 jobs. Is this the beginning of the jobs exodus?

Both Theresa May and Angela Merkel appear to have problems with their governments but we thought that they were both likely to survive. May because there was no real contender for the post and the Conservatives would not want to risk another election; Merkel because there was likely to be another coalition and the President of Germany would be working behind the scenes to ensure this.

Our next meeting is 17 January 2018.

Margaret Mcdermott

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## DANCING

We have encouragingly signs recently as one or two new couples have joined us for our dances, and hopefully will continue with the blend of Latin, ballroom, and some sequence.

In December, the sequence group joined us for a very successful combined Christmas Dance and Party, with Kate and Ian hosting the seasonal music and selecting the mix of sequence and ballroom dances.

We next meet on 12 January.

Walter Mason



### Sequence Dancing

The last series of U3A's "Strictly Come Sequence" finished on Dec. 22. We resume on 5 January with fortnightly sessions at Hawk Green Reading Room.

A plethora of local celebrities are usually in attendance, and here we see some of them in action, posing for the camera!



By kind permission of Walter, Sam, and Ann Reynolds, we had a joint Christmas Party with the Ballroom dancers at High Lane Village Hall. We had a mixed programme of dances, to suit everybody (we hope, as have not heard anything to the contrary!) and lots of shared food and drink. Here's to 2018.

Kate and Ian

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### DINING

December 2017 and the last outing of the year was at The Midway on New Bridge Lane. This hostelry has won many awards over the years and we were not disappointed. The atmosphere was warm and inviting, the Christmas decorations attractive without taking over the room and the three-course meal was very appetising, although a little too much for some of us. Praise must also go to Pauline and her team who looked after us so efficiently and despite being very busy were so pleasant and smiley.

After the meal no one seemed to want to go home and we relaxed in our seats and enjoyed the company of our fellow U3A members before donning our winter coats to step out into the December drizzle.

2018 starts with a visit to an old favourite Elevations Restaurant in Stockport College. We look forward to meeting old and new members there in February.

Best Wishes for 2018

Jeanette Bell  
Dorothy Neillands

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### GARDENING

In January we meet at the Hanging Gate, Coombs for our annual lunch. Meanwhile we anxiously wait for our gardens to dry out!

Walter Mason

## HISTORY

### November meeting - She Wolves

The group watched a BBC4 programme entitled 'She Wolves' about two women in the 12th century who challenged male power, Matilda and Eleanor. Matilda's attempt to become queen of England in her own right led the country into twenty years of civil war. Eventually she did become accepted, however, it was thought that she had become too arrogant, only men could behave like that not women, and so on her coronation day fighting broke out once again and she was never actually crowned. Later her son became Henry II.

Eleanor of Aquitaine first became queen of France when she married Louis V11 and later became queen of England when she married Henry II, Matilda's son. She was the mother of king Richard the Lionheart and ruled England on his behalf whilst he was fighting in the crusades.

The programme was the first in a series but is unfortunately not currently available on iPlayer.

Pam Curley

## OPERA APPRECIATION

14th / 28th November.

We watched the Vienna State Opera's 2011 production of Anna Bolena. Donizetti's opera featured stunning singing by Anna Netrebko as Anne Boleyn and Elīna Garanča as Jane Seymour.

12th December.

We celebrated the season with the New York Metropolitan Opera's production of La Cenerentola. This is Rossini's take on the story of Cinderella. Rossini disliked the magical element of the traditional story, so this version has no fairy godmother, pumpkin coach, etc. What it does have is some very lively music, and plenty of humour.

For our January meetings, we will stay with the story of Cinderella, but a very different version. I intend to show Massenet's Cendrillon.

Meg Humphries

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Our November competition on "Mills" produced the result:- 1st Jeff - Windmill, Lytham St. Annes; 2nd Derek - Pear Mill, Stockport; 3rd Bob - Torr Vale Mill, New Mills.



Afterwards we agreed next year's programme. Our subjects for 2018 are Sculptures, Music, Seaside, Butterflies and Moths, and Cottages.

We are also planning an autumn photoshoot in Marple.

Walter Mason

## QUIZ

We continue to meet monthly on the fourth Thursday of the month.

At our final meeting of the year we had a change from our usual diet of quiz questions to a Trivial Pursuit session led by Ron Barrow and accompanied by prosecco cupcakes, mince pies and Ecclefechan tarts. As often happens we didn't have sufficient time to finish the game and declare a winner. We decided we would be happy to revert to our usual format for 2018. However, those interested in Trivial Pursuit can contact Ron about joining his new group.

The next meeting is in January 2018. Please contact me for details if you are interested in the Quiz group.

Diane Saxon

## QUIZ OF 2017

How well do you remember 2017?

January	Donald Trump became President of the USA. Who is his Vice President?
February	This film won Academy Awards Best film.
March	Where were women admitted for the first time after 273 years?
April	Winner of the Nobel prize for Literature?
May	Town where Manchester United won the UEFA Europa Cup?
June	Who did Raphael Nadal beat to win his 10 <sup>th</sup> French Open title?
July	Who won the Tour de France for the 4 <sup>th</sup> time?
August	Who retired at the age of 96?
September	Lost their licence to operate in London?
October	What caused flight cancellations?
November	Lost his job in Zimbabwe?
December	had the Christmas Number 1?

How did you do? Answers are on page 17.

## THE YEAR

What can be said in New Year rhymes,  
 That's not been said a thousand times?  
 The new years come, the old years go,  
 We know we dream, we dream we know.  
 We rise up laughing with the light,  
 We lie down weeping with the night.  
 We hug the world until it stings,  
 We curse it then and sigh for wings.  
 We live, we love, we woo, we wed,  
 We wreath our prides, we sheet our dead.  
 We laugh, we weep, we hope, we fear,  
 And that's the burden of a year.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox, 1850-1919  
 Famous for her lines  
 Laugh and the World laughs with you;  
 Weep and you weep alone.

## SHAKESPEARE

We are currently reading Antony and Cleopatra, play number 26 since we started the Group. In December 12 of us had a very pleasant lunch at the Railway in Marple where we astounded the locals with favourite quotations from Shakespeare plays and sonnets.

Dates so far for 2018 meetings are: Jan. 15, Feb. 12, March 19 and April 16. We start at 9.30 and finish around midday.

Any member interested in coming along will be very welcome, but please let me know beforehand.

Steve Reynolds

## TRAVEL

### Dining with Distinction

Twenty one members enjoyed a two hour journey, from Bury through the Irwell Valley, on a steam locomotive in December, whilst enjoying a festive lunch. This was a luxurious dining experience in vintage 1920s style Pullman carriages, which had been lovingly restored with sumptuous upholstery and fittings.



On arrival we were greeted with red carpet treatment, and once on board the catering was first class, waiters and waitresses delivering excellent service. An excellent way to start the Christmas celebrations....and we didn't have to cook the dinner!!!

Margaret Meekley

## BERLIN

Having to leave High Lane at 4am for the flight to Berlin meant our first day was quite exhausting. We will never again choose such an early departure! The hotel where we were based was in East Berlin quite a distance from the city centre. However the efficient and frequent public transport, of which we were very envious, meant we could reach any destination very easily.

Below are some impressions from members of the group:

The tranquil sail along the River Spree having "things of interest" pointed out to us in an excellent commentary in English.

Carina Redmond.

The glass dome on top of the Reichstag building, interesting from the outside, but inside shining with the sunlight reflecting on the central mirrors ; the gentle walkway leading up to the summit giving the best views of the whole of Berlin ; truly a jewel in Berlin's crown and designed by the English architect Norman Foster.

Annette Derbyshire.



What most impressed me was the courtesy shown to us on public transport and the general helpfulness of the people we asked for directions. Susan Bailey.

It was such a wonderful itinerary, taking in all the different the aspects of the city by bus, train, and boat, that it's hard to choose a favourite although the Reichstag was most impressive.

Peter Bailey

Sipping rhubarb juice at the Hotel Adlon and being treated as honoured guests by two charming young waiters despite choosing the cheapest things on the menu; (the Hotel Adlon featured in the 30s film Grand Hotel where Greta Garbo wished "to be alone"); marvelling at the splendour of the Ishtar Gate of Babylon in the Pergamon Museum which was purpose built to house whole buildings; admiring the ingenuity of Norman Foster in his design of the dome on the Reichstag and learning about Frederik the Great from an excellent guide on our visit to Sans Souci, his summer palace outside Potsdam.

Marlene Brookes



## WALKING

**Wednesday 22 November 2017**

15 of us met in the lay-by, by Hazel Grove High School, on Jacksons Lane for a 7 mile walk around the Lady Brook valley. Our walk ignores the invisible boundaries and once more joins the villages of Poynton and Bramhall. However, this walk is about to be divided again by a far from invisible boundary in the form of the A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road Scheme.



We should have started by descending a scant 100 ft. before heading east along the edge of fields to Millhill Bridge on Chester Road. However, despite fine weather on the day, the rain from the previous week resulted in a muddy and hazardous route. Caution prevailed and we took to Jacksons Lane to reach the bridge before heading off into Mill Hill Hollow for our first encounter with the relief road at the confluence of Poynton Brook and Norbury Brook. Standing on the, as yet, unfinished carriage way we had our first chance to see the scale of the construction and workings for dealing with drainage of surface water.

Following on the path after the road workings we crossed the footbridge over Poynton Brook and arrived at Poynton Pool having carefully crossed London Road. The "pool" or lake was full of wildfowl and a pleasant spot for a coffee break. The lake once formed the edge of the Vernon family estate overlooked by Poynton Hall built in the 1750s. The original "Towers" were erected about 1600 as part of the first hall, and became a stables and dairy complex after 1760. In the 1850s they were converted and greatly extended to form a new house, "Poynton Towers", long since demolished. We re-crossed London Road to the Bull's Head pub at the old centre of Poynton village. We travelled west from the Bull's Head down Vicarage Lane, 'greenway' and bridleway (the old Wilmslow Road) to our next encounter with the relief road at Chester Road/Woodford Road. A new footbridge will

eventually cross the road but for now we were obliged to cross by the new road bridge This gave us the opportunity to survey the extensive drainage workings that appear to be the current obstacle to completion.

Continuing along to Birch Hall farm we could look back at a splendid view of Lyme Park and the Peak District hills. Our next objective was Carr Wood Park but first there followed a maze of alleys and roads traversing Pownall Green and the nether reaches of Bramhall. Carr Wood Park descends to Bramhall Park through a pleasant wooded valley on the edge of Bramhall Park golf club. Once in Bramhall Park we stopped for lunch before following Lady Brook through Happy Valley Nature Reserve and back up to our starting point at the lay by. Caution should have led us to divert up Wallbank and Jacksons Lane to avoid the mud and slippery slope again! However, for reasons best left unsaid, we carried on and reached our destination muddy but safe.

Ron & Marje Rennell

### Disley: Walk and Lunch Wednesday 6th December

Thirty of us met at the White Horse Pub car park in Disley to start our final walk in 2017, led by David Burke. Our 3.5 mile trek around Disley started at St Mary's Church, whose origins date from 1527 when Sir Piers Legh of Lyme funded the construction of a Chantry Chapel. Our walk went past Bentside Farm along Green Lane to Long Lane which led us to Muslin Row, where we crossed Buxton Old Road and followed Corks Lane past Seven Springs to join Greenshall Lane. Here our group photograph was taken and we enjoyed a coffee stop and chocolate cherry liqueurs! We followed Greenshall Lane, crossed the main A6 road and joined the Peak Forrest Canal. Walking towards Disley we passed the former Disley rubbish tip which is now covered with new houses and the former Bowwater factory site which is also covered with new housing.



Our canal towpath route continued past Disley towards Marple, passing a "reflective" barge, before we crossed the canal at a swing bridge and followed the single-track lane via Haggbank to Disley village and the White Horse where thirty walkers' were pleased to sit down and enjoy a Christmas drink and lunch.

David Burke

### WALKING GROUP THREE DAY VISIT TO SEDBERGH, WESTERN YORKSHIRE DALES

#### Day 1; Friday 27th October 2017

The first day of our trip was blessed with near perfect weather conditions, sunny blue cloudless skies, little wind and favourable temperatures. The Howgills greeted us in crystal clear conditions with their profile etched against the deep blue sky, the vision will remain with the 22 walkers on the trip throughout the grey days to come.



We all met at Thorns Hall, Sedbergh, our accommodation, prior to an afternoon 2.4 mile stroll led by David Burke. We followed a lovely circuit along the banks of the picturesque river Rawthey. The path led us through a delightful wood with a narrow walled gully and across open fields to the hamlet of Birks, some of the houses date from the 1700's. We then proceeded along a footpath across the sports fields of Sedbergh School- established in 1525, one of the oldest schools in England. The path then led to St Andrews' Church where we sat for a while in the warm sun, surveying the school grounds and magnificent view over the distant hills. We entered the church which dates from 1500, although earlier buildings on the site dated from around 1130 AD. It had a major renovation in 1886. The east window is unusual in that it has a single picture spread over 5 panes. It looked magnificent against the strong external sunlight. We then walked along Sedbergh's Main Street before returning to Thorns Hall for afternoon tea. A great start to our stay, admittedly we were in a state of pleasant surprise at experiencing an ideal autumnal sunny day!

David Burke

#### Day 2; Saturday 28th October 2017



Twenty of us set off after a hearty breakfast, for an eight mile walk led by David Burke, which would take us to the banks of no less than three different rivers. Leaving Thorns Hall, we took the footpath behind Settlebeck School, crossing fields to descend on a narrow road to enter a wood which was once part of the estate of Akay Hall. On leaving the wood we passed a strange building known locally as "The Pepperpot". It is believed that this unusual building was built as an isolation house for the daughter of the local landowner who was suffering from tuberculosis. By living in isolation, she avoided being moved to a sanatorium, and could therefore be nearer her family. Sadly she died shortly afterwards. The building then fell into disrepair, but was rebuilt recently with money from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

suffering from tuberculosis. By living in isolation, she avoided being moved to a sanatorium, and could therefore be nearer her family. Sadly she died shortly afterwards. The building then fell into disrepair, but was rebuilt recently with money from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

We then continued along the edge of one of Sedbergh School's rugby pitches, through the hamlet of Birks, and along the bank of the River Rawthey. Passing the sewage works, we could see the confluence of the River Dee as it joined the Rawthey. Continuing along the river bank, we crossed the embankment of a disused railway, next to an interesting cast iron arch railway bridge over the river. We then continued along the bank, followed by a short walk along the A683, then a path through some fields and farm buildings to continue along the "Dales Way" to Luneside Farm. This section of our walk was extremely muddy, but we somehow survived it. We were then in view of the River Lune and we chose this spot to eat our packed lunches.

Continuing along the bank of the River Lune, we passed under the disused Waterside Viaduct, again admiring its cast iron arches. After that we crossed some fields and along Howgill Lane to Lockbank Farm. We then traversed a path beneath Winder Fell, to a path which descended by Settlebeck Gill. The route necessitated crossing the beck, and then passing the Howgills Bunk Barn, to descend into Sedbergh village and Thorns Hall.



Jeff Mortimer

Day 3; Sunday 29th October 2017



Another superb sunny autumn day! 16 walkers set off from Thorns Hall on a 4.3 mile walk led by David Burke. This walk covered new ground Eastward, following the River Rawthey upstream until we reached Straight Bridge, after crossing the river we proceeded along a lane to Garsdale Bridge and the River Clough, which we followed in a South/Easterly direction along its beautiful and varied meandering course.

We left the Clough at Hallbank to strike out for higher ground leading to Low Branthwaite and then headed towards Side Farm, stopping for our picnic lunch at a convenient spot to view the Howgill Hills across the valley bathed in sunshine and dressed in their autumn colours. A nasty boggy area did little to aid our progress as we headed back towards Sedbergh but once we reached the lane to High Hollins it was downhill all the way without hinder. We crossed the Rawthey at New Bridge and returned to Thorns Hall, finished our picnic lunch, before travelling home after three enjoyable days walking in the Sedbergh area.

David Burke

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#### Answers to Quiz of 2017:

Jan: Mike Pence

Feb: Moonlight

March: Muirfield Golf Club

April: Kazuo Ishiguro

May: Stockholm,

June: Stanislas Wawrinka

July: Chris Froome

Aug: Duke of Edinburgh

Sept: Uber

Oct: demise of Monarch Airlines

Nov: Robert Mugabe

Dec: Ed Sheeran