

High Lane U3A Newsletter

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25 Years of the U3A in Britain

PLEASE HELP

What were YOU doing 25 years ago? Yes that was 1982.

Does that year ring any bells with you? Was there any memorable event in that year that you can tell us about? If so please let the Editor have the stories, either hand written or by e.mail.

The reason is, that there is a U3A competition for the best Newsletter representing the 25 years of the U3A.

In addition any stories that have occurred during the lifetime of our U3A would also provide additional material for our Newsletter.

They can be humorous, or factual. When they all arrive they will be put into a special edition Newsletter depicting our U3A and the various happenings to our members over the period that the U3A has existed in Britain.
PLEASE HELP
Editor

Environmental Conference a Date for YOUR Diary

Wednesday Morning 17th October 2007

The film shown to members of the Pennine Link group of U3A's on Wednesday 16th May as a precursor to the above meeting was the Al Gore film "An Inconvenient Truth"

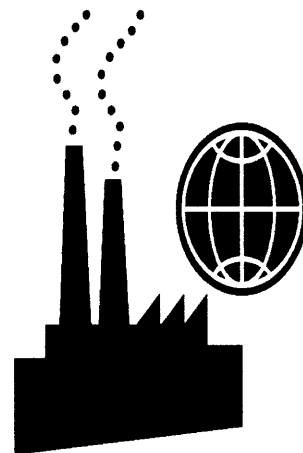
If you didn't see the film then, don't worry the Conference will be well worth attending to gain an insight into what local people think about the environment.

Don't miss it we need your support to ensure that the High Lane U3A is well represented as the host U3A.

This is the first real venture of the Pennine Link to try and provide an item which is of interest to all U3As and will no doubt affect us all In the long term, and judging by June's weather, is affecting us now.

There is no doubt that the polar ice caps are melting and we may be gripped by another ice age.

Editor



Springtime in Cologne

A Visit to Cologne Zoo

On April 25th we set off on our latest venture into the German-speaking world when we flew to Cologne, Germany's 4th largest city, famous for its cathedral, its trade fairs and its "eau". Arriving quite late in the evening, we sped off in our taxis to Das Kleine Stapelhaeuschen, the most romantic hotel in Cologne, according to "The Independent", and we quickly realised that we were in the "in" place to be. The whole area was a mass of bars and restaurants near the Rhine, where the merriment continued into the early hours of the morning, causing some problems in getting off to sleep to those guests who were not deaf. Still the pluses outweighed the minuses. The hotel dates back to the 13th century and was one of the few buildings in the old town that escaped the wartime bombing. It is a very narrow building as wider buildings were taxed quite heavily in the Middle Ages. Because of this, there is a spiral staircase in the main restaurant area which some of us had to use to get to our rooms. (There was also a lift for the majority of guests)

Our first day was spent in getting to know Cologne. We visited the cathedral (no entrance charge), took a coach tour and visited the only chocolate museum in the world - not such a good idea on such a hot day. We were able to get more hot and sticky by entering a greenhouse representing the South American rain forest where the chocolate beans grow.

We decided on a more relaxed day on Friday, cruising down the Rhine to Koenigswinter where we could take a cog railway up the Drachenfels from where we had wonderful views of the Rhine and the surrounding Siebengebirge. Those of us energetic enough climbed further to the ruined castle at the top

Saturday was another full day. We visited the 4711 house where eau-de-cologne was first produced and sold. When the French army occupied Cologne in 1796, they insisted on numbering all the houses and that's the origin of that particular brand. To commemorate that event the Glockenspiel at the top of the house plays the Marseillaise on the hour throughout the day - something that never happens in France! We then visited the Documentation Centre where we saw an exhibition about the Nazi period in Cologne. We were particularly moved by the Gestapo cells in the cellar and the story of their inmates. The afternoon took us on the short trip to Bonn where we enjoyed Kaffee und Kuchen in the market square, admired the architecture and finally visited Beethoven's childhood home.

On Sunday, we went our separate ways: 6 went off to the zoo, 2 on another boat trip and 2 to the mediaeval walled town of Zons on the Lower Rhine. We left our shopping until Monday and most of us managed to get a few bargains in the very lively shopping centre, followed by a very welcome ice cream sundae in one of the many attractive squares in the city. We were sad to leave Cologne but glad to experience cooler temperatures on our return. Our lasting impression is of a vibrant, modern city where the locals really know how to enjoy themselves. The fine weather brought them out in their thousands to enjoy the food and drink, have fun and yet not get drunk or cause any problems. Everything was so good-natured. We were happy to have been a part of this, even though we needed a rest when we got home

Marlene Brooks

Cologne Zoo is the third oldest in Germany, created in 1860, housing over 700 species of animals (7000 in total) in an area of 48 acres. It was virtually destroyed in World War II but reopened in 1947.

The enclosures give the animals plenty of space and provide them with conditions they may encounter in the wild with natural looking boundaries.

The collection of birds, reptiles and mammals is so large it is impossible to write about all of them. The first animals we met were the meercats and several species of bear from around the globe. We eventually found the Rain Forest enclosure and house where we met our near relatives, the Lowland Gorillas and Orang utans along with the cheeky chimps. The highlight of the zoo is the Elephant Park and House which has about 20 elephants. This last year has seen the birth of 3 baby elephants, all of which have survived. The elephants were absolutely delightful and left a lasting impression on us. The babies were well protected by the mothers and other females in the herd. The babies looked a little hairy but I expect their mothers thought they were beautiful and we spent a lot of time watching them. The gestation period is about 18 months to 2 years and the calf weighs approx. 220 lbs at birth. Whilst the females are family orientated, the bull is a solitary animal. There's so much to see: the Aquarium with its fish and corals, the Terrarium with a variety of reptiles - Nile crocodiles, boas, chameleons and poison dart frog.

As ever, all good things come to an end and so did our visit to the zoo, and my lasting memory has to be those elephants.....

June Gibbs

Midsummer Bridge Chicago & Party

June 21st was a wet sunny and windy Thursday. But did that bother the Thursday bridge group? No.

A very successful midsummer's day party was held at the tennis club,

The afternoon started with an Individual Chicago Competition (you're on your own folks) accompanied by a glass of hooch, (more bottles needed next year).

The prizes were presented to the winners by Jean Day followed by a presentation to her for all her past efforts to turn us into bridge players.

The afternoon concluded with a vast array of goodies provided by the players, for which we thank you all.

Chris Gibson



Singing for FUN

The singing group continues to meet in Disley at Tony and Margaret's house.

They would very much appreciate new members, it is not necessary for you to be able to read music as long as you can sing.

Why not go along - singing is good for you and the group would make you feel most welcome.

Go on— give it a try — you will find new friends and enjoy singing in the process, what could be better?

Come and air YOUR VIEWS at our NEW Discussion Group

The first meeting of the Discussion group (six members attended) took place on the 19th June at Lynton Drive, High Lane at 2.00pm. We discussed Immigration, immigrants and their effects on the economy and society in general. A full and frank exchange of views and opinions took place, some pertinent, some impertinent, all very light heartedly of course. The next meeting has been scheduled for 25th July, same time, same address. The subject to be discussed is to be announced on the day.

Jim McDermott



Crown Green Bowls

We now have 44 people going on our trip to Christleton on the 26th July.

The format will be similar to last year with one or two minor modifications which have been made to level the abilities and make for better competition.

We will meet at 9.00am at either Alderdale Drive or Norbury Church.

If you have not yet paid please let me have your final amount ASAP please.

All we need now is a fine day. Enjoy your bowling.

Ken Bentley

Reading Group

The next meeting is at Sue Dintinger's House at 10am on Wednesday 4th July. We are presently Reading "Winter Queen" by Boris Akunin. It is set in Moscow in 1876, according to the Guardian quote "Think of Tolstoy writing James Bond with the logical rigour of Sherlock Holmes".

Sue Dintinger

Sounds a really good read to me, why not come and join us?

Finance Group

The next meeting will be on July 11th after the usual general meeting in the village Hall High Lane.

The subject will be "Housing, housing improvements, mortgages, buying and selling houses".

The speaker is Scott Grayson from Mellors estate agency, he will be happy to answer any questions.

Derek Hill

Music to Enjoy

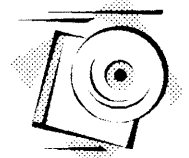
Music appreciation group continue to meet on alternate Tuesdays at High Lane Library.

At the last meeting on 26th June we discussed Rachmaninoff.

On the previous meeting on July 10th we discussed Mozart oddities.

New members are always welcome the music is always Interesting.

Allan Leach



Walking Group May Walk

The May walk took us further afield, and there was a different feel to the countryside as we crossed the River Dane into Staffordshire. We ascended to plenty of views of Shutlings Loe, the Roaches, and Bosley Cloud. The ten of us contoured round from Swythamley Park to a sandwich lunch at Castle Rocks, surrounded by luscious but unripe twinberries (bilberries). Walk leader Walter Mason led us through the fascinating minigorge of Ludschurch, before we returned past the Hanging Rock and the bluebell woods, back to Dane Bridge and Wincle. The scarecrow displays at Dane Bridge were impressive, and almost worth the longish car journey by themselves.

June Walk

15 walkers were intrigued enough to try Walters Mystery walk which took them to Chadkirk. Surprisingly, although not far distant from High Lane parts of the 4.5 mile route were new to many, particularly the sheltered ascent to Bunkers Hill and Hatherlow past the Hellebore specialist. Much of the route was by the Peak Forest Canal and nearby paths, and the newly wooded banks sheltered us from some showers. We passed the "legging" tunnel, crossed the aqueduct and saw boats both in ascent and descent of locks to Marple. We returned past Hyde Bank and derelict Oakwood Hall and Kirk Wood. And by popular assent retired to the Hare and Hounds for Lunch.

Walter Mason

Future Walks

25th July

Leader John McCartney, 4 Miles on Chinley Churn

Bring Packed lunch Meet 10.00am

31st August

Leader Louanne Collins 6 miles from Broadbottom

Bring Packed Lunch Meet 9.30am

28th September

Leaders Mike & Margaret Snape

26th October

Leaders Roger & Jean Drinkwater

German Group

After a few interruptions the group will continue to meet each Friday at 9.30am

We all wish Lesley Edwards a speedy recovery after her recent hospital stay.

Recently we had a visit from 13 members of the Adult Education Centre in Forchheim and several members of High Lane and Cheadle U3As were involved in hosting and entertaining our guests. It seems to have been a great success, helped no doubt by the wonderful weather we experienced during the 8 days. We had several trips out and a final get-together at a safari supper between Lynton Drive and Bowfell Drive with a real wild life safari along the canal in High Lane.

Many thanks to all those involved.

Marlene Brookes

Needlework Group

Our meetings have been a little irregular of late due to various commitments. After our meeting on June 28th we arranged meetings to suit the majority of the group.

Any new members should contact Marlene Brookes regarding the schedule.

Marlene Brookes

Dining Group

We are going to the Ring O'Bells for a lunchtime Meal on July 24th 12.00 for 12.30. The cost has been reduced to £8.00 for a 2 course meal.

THE LIST IS NOW CLOSED

We are looking at meals for the rest of the year and will give details out as soon as we are able.

Edna Bentley

**Closing Date for items to be included
in the
September Newsletter**

25th August 2007