

FROM THE CHAIR

Since our last meeting we have gained ten new members making our numbers now 432. I hope you have been able to join the groups in which you are interested. Sheila Harrop is the committee member who can give you any information you need.

We have managed to start a few new groups but need more people willing to lead or co-ordinate. Often all that is required is someone willing to be the contact person. Please note that we can offer some financial help if needed for a new group. Contact the Group Co-ordinator, Chair or Treasurer for help.

Jean Drinkwater did her charity Skydive a fortnight ago. You can read about this later in the newsletter and I hope Jean will tell us at the July meeting about her experience.

I have had messages from several members saying that their e-mails had been hacked into. May I remind you not to open any suspicious e-mails.

Margaret McDermott

NEW GROUPS

The new groups Margaret mentions are from the suggestions you made in the membership survey. We currently have lists for Lunchtime concerts, Opera, Board games, Country dancing, Tai Chi and French. If you are interesting joining any of these groups and have not yet put your name down please sign up at the next meeting, email the editor or see Pat Christopher, our new groups' co-ordinator.

We also have a backgammon group which has just started. If you are interested in this please contact Ron Barrow for details.

WHO AM I QUIZ WINNERS

Thanks to all those members who attempted to answer the Who am I quiz. There was just one entry with all the answers correct. Congratulations to Linda Morton on her all correct entry. The prize will be presented at the monthly meeting.

This edition's quiz is on page 4. Please have a go!

JEAN'S SKYDIVE



See page 2 for Jean's story of her skydive to raise funds for Retinitis Pigmentosa.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Items for the newsletter from members are always welcome. A poetry corner has been suggested so feel free to send contributions for this – this could be poems you have written or extracts from your favourite poems. Please contact me at newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk

The next edition of the newsletter will be the September edition. Due to holidays, please can you get your contributions to me a little earlier than usual - by **Saturday 23 August?**

MY SKYDIVE

It all started in December last year when there was a request in the RP Fighting Blindness magazine for people to take part in a World Record Skydive Attempt on Saturday 14th June 2014 to raise funds for RP research (Retinitis Pigmentosa). The reason I am registered blind is because I have RP; an inherited condition. Having thought about this I told some friends I was going to do it, I couldn't back out then so I applied. I have been told several times how brave I am, actually I think that there is a saying "if all around you are losing their cool and you are in control, you do not understand the situation"! That was probably me! Having been accepted I set about fund raising. Many of you have been so generous and donated money for which I am truly grateful; thank you.

Plans were put in hand to be at Langar Airfield, near Nottingham, at 8.30 a.m. last Saturday, Roger, Kit and I drove to Bingham and stayed overnight there as it was close to the airfield. Unfortunately the day did not dawn bright; it was cloudy. Many charities were represented and their supporters were wearing T shirts (as were I and my family and friends) with the charity names on them. As well as RP there was Diabetes research, Multiple Sclerosis, Dementia, Ataxia, Anthony Nolan Trust, Make a Wish, and many more. We checked in and were told that due to weather conditions they would not take our flight money as it was not certain whether we would be able to jump. However we were told to just wait. In the meantime we were given a briefing and told the main things to remember were to fold our arms, put our head back and tuck our legs under the plane as we exited. The other thing to remember as we were free falling was to breathe; apparently although we had all been breathing since birth when first leaving the aircraft many forget to breathe! I decided there and then that I would sing to the Lord as I left the aircraft because if I was singing I was breathing.

The day wore on with no apparent lift in the weather. At approximately 3.45 p.m. things started to happen so quickly it was unbelievable. My name was called first which was great. I was introduced to Dave, who would be my instructor, kitted out in a suit, apparently one size fits nobody(!), given goggles, gloves and an unattractive leather hat to wear plus a harness. Once dressed we had another briefing - remember the other had been 6 hours earlier. Having signed a form (not sure what for but think it was to say we had been

briefed), five of us were taken to the plane (Cessna 280) with five instructors, and three photographers. We all climbed a ladder into the plane; at that stage I was told to kneel down (at that time I thought I am too old for this), then the instructor sat down and I had to sit between his legs. We were then joined together by our harnesses which were then tightened (very tight) and we flew sitting this way for over 15 minutes.

Suddenly, the door of the plane opened. I folded my arms, tucked my legs under the plane, put my head back, smiled for the photographer, and jumped!



Wow, the noise of the wind was amazing and although I sang my heart out (Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Praise ye the Lord) I could not hear myself. We freefell for 50 seconds which goes very quickly. After that, my instructor tapped me on the back which meant I could hold out my arms; the parachute opened and PEACE. It was so quiet and such a contrast to freefalling; it was beautiful up there. We had come through the clouds and the sun was shining on the horizon. We turned so we could see all around; the view was wonderful. We had quite a good conversation whilst coming down about many things, including the fact that Dave thought we were on Songs of Praise(!). Dave then told me he was hoping to get me down in one piece, and to hold my legs up. Also to wave to my supporters. I shouted "I'm coming down" but they did not hear, although they could see it was me as they knew the colour of the parachute (purple and yellow).

The landing was smooth and we managed to land on our feet - this seemed comparatively easy for me - not sure about Dave but he seemed quite happy. I was high on adrenaline, and told to tell the photographer what it felt like and why I had done it. To date I have raised £1500; thanks to all who contributed. The experience was amazing. I felt the peace of God the whole time beforehand and in the air.

Jean Drinkwater

LINDA'S CHARITY RUN

I did the 10KM Manchester Midnight Walk last night in memory of a U3A member Anne Rudkin who died in St Ann's in February. Anne played Bridge & Bowls when she was well enough and supported the U3A and Village Hall to the end.

Thanks to generous donations, £350 has been raised and will be donated to St Ann's Hospice.

Linda Morton

LIVERPOOL FIRST WORLD WAR COMMEMORATION

A chance comment on a TV programme (BBC North West), and previous searching of family history, led to Freda and Walter Mason meeting the Lord Mayor of Liverpool in early June. (By chance on Freda's birthday!). It was at a ceremony to add names of Liverpool soldiers killed in the First World War to the Liverpool Wall of Remembrance Room – more than 13,000 are already listed on the walls. Freda's uncle was killed in Belgium and his details were recorded on the memorial wall at Tyne Cot war cemetery near Ypres. Just as an earlier visit to Tyne Cot had been, the ceremony at Liverpool Town Hall was very moving, especially the Last Post and the handing out of scrolls to family descendants. Of the speakers, the Lord Mayor was the pick of the bunch and really enhanced the occasion. The Town Hall itself although not imposing from outside was bright and attractive inside – not unlike a modern museum/art gallery. Altogether a day to remember.

Walter Mason

ALLOTMENT OPEN DAY

This year's allotment open day is on 20 July from 10 am - 2 pm. The allotment site will be open to the public and the village hall will be open with refreshments, a produce stall, a cake stall, raffle, and games for the children.

Joan Green

MONTHLY MEETINGS**MAY MEETING**

Janet Bradshaw entertained us with the history of sweets. Janet is a historian in the Education team at Tatton Park. Janet started her talk with a quiz on sweets – members were very good at the answers to these! She then took us through some of the history of sweets and the work she does with children at Tatton park. She ended her very informative and engaging talk with extracts from some poems about sweets. Here is one of them:
Toffee Slab by Brian Lee.

*As thick as a plank, as unbending as Fate,
It was wrapped in wax-paper, and weighed like a slate;
It had a brown cow on it, smiling and fat
With 'rich' and 'creamy' and grand words like that:
And you broke it with bricks on Mrs Doig's wall,
So it came out irregular, but with something for all
(If you were quick, it was more or less fair
Even wee Andy had his proportional share);*

*Then with nobody speaking, with sort of fixed grins
And oozings like glue leaking over our chins
We'd stand there for ages, our eyes staring wide,
The great splinters of it jammed tightly inside,*

*With the sharpest end stuck up near your brain,
What pleasure!- mingled with twinges of pain.*

JUNE MEETING

At the June meeting, Wing Commander 'Robby' Robinson (retired) told us about his life in aviation including work with the Ministry of Defence, RAF

and British Aerospace. He was Chief Test Pilot at Hawker Siddeley in Woodford where he gained the famous radio call-sign 'Avro-One'. Hawker Siddeley later became British Aerospace and he worked on the Nimrod airborne early warning (AEW) aircraft which provided airborne radar cover for the defence of the United Kingdom by the Royal Air Force. He told us how the Nimrod was used in the Falklands War and how that required an airborne refuelling system so that the islands could be reached. You can read more about his work in his book Avro One: Autobiography of a Chief Test Pilot.

U3A Walking Guides

Two more walks created by U3A members have been published as part of the Royal Geographical Society's Discovering Britain series. These cover walks by the Dee estuary in North Wales and a walk in Dartmoor. These are free to download from www.discoveringbritain.org – printed and audio versions are available. These walks plus the two walks in the last edition of the newsletter are also available as full colour booklets from the Third Age Trust for £3.75 inc P&P.

U3A 2015 DIARIES

The U3A diary for 2015 has a dark grey leather look cover. The design of the notes pages has reverted to the 2013 design which does not have the logo. The cost is £2 which includes postage.

If you would like to order one give your name and payment to Pam Curley at the July meeting.

GOOD NEWS/BAD NEWS!

Healthy life expectancy is rising in tandem with growing life expectancy, which now stands at 83 for men and 86 for women, up from 78 and 82 respectively in 1982. Fewer older people are developing heart disease or having a stroke, partly linked to being the age group least likely to smoke.

However, a new report says 73% of people in the 55-64 and 65-74 categories are overweight, followed by 72% of 45- to 54-year-olds and 70% of those aged 75 or above, according to data from the NHS's Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC). The average Body Mass Index among those aged between 45 and 74 is 28.3. Ruthe Isden, health influencing programme director at Age UK, said only a tiny proportion of over-65s, including 4% of over-75s, exercised enough.

Over-65s – who make up one-sixth of the population – use 60% of all medication dispensed and account for 54% of stays in hospital. Over-85s make up 2% of the population and account for 18% of hospital bed days.

QUIZ: PARTS OF THE BODY

This edition's quiz consists of clues which should help you identify a number of parts of the body.

Thanks to Grace Shaw for this quiz.

1. Type of bean
2. Spare ones might be eaten
3. Type of orange
4. Marching correctly with others
5. City lacks game
6. Tropical tree
7. A rule
8. A lonely fish?
9. He has paintings
10. Where a river meets the sea
11. You may be given this
12. Old fashioned measure
13. A pull for a car
14. Greek god with endless wrinkle
15. Maybe found on the roof
16. Tom gets cash in a muddle
17. Proverbially found with the camel
18. Get down to it
19. Looks like a rainbow
20. Card game swaps Henry for queen

There will be a small prize for the entry gaining the highest score. Each correct answer will score one mark. In the event of a tie the winner will be chosen at random from the entries with the highest score. The decision of the judges is final. Please send your entries to the Editor at newsletereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk. The closing date for entries is **25 August**.

I have received requests for the answers to the WHO AM I? quiz. These were all Davids. They are:

1. Beckham, 2 Michelangelo's statue of David, 3 Lloyd, 4 Copperfield, 5 Icke, 6 Attenborough, 7 Lean, 8 Gilmore, 9 Trimble, 10 Nalbandian, 11 Bowie, 12 Jason, 13 Lange, 14 Tennant, 15 Hockney, 16 Frost, 17 Bailey, 18 Threlfall, 19 Archer, 20 Lloyd George, 21 Lodge, 22 Coulthard, 23 Hume. 24 Wilkie, 25 Hasselhof

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

HIGH LANE U3A HAPPENINGS

9 July	Monthly meeting. Swasie Turner "OVERCOMING ADVERSITY"
21 July	Crown Green Bowling visit to Prestatyn
13 Aug	Monthly meeting. Lord David Garfield Davies, Baron Davies of Coity. THE WORK OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS.
3 Sept	Churches and Pubs. St Barthomelew's Ripponden

U3A NORTH WEST REGION ACTIVITIES

<http://u3asites.org.uk/code/u3asite.php?site=421&page=3>

13 Aug	Marple and Mellor gardening group Annual Horticultural Show
26-29 Aug	U3A NORTH WEST REGION SUMMER SCHOOL. Newton Rigg College, Penrith. Full residential rate £300 (£40 early bird discount). Day rate £150 Contact David Joseph davidbjoseph@btopenworld.com
10 Sept	Marple and Mellor gardening group Cutting exchange
13 Sept	U3A One-Day Family History Conference. Dome, Buxton. Cost £20. Contact Ian Taylor at taylorian9@gmail.com . Booking closes 16 August

U3A NATIONAL EVENTS

11-14 August	Science Network Annual seminar. Harper Adams University, Telford. Cost £250 residential, £110 day visitor. Early booking recommended www.u3ascienceseminar.org.uk
6 Sept	U3A Shropshire Study day. Gateway Centre, Shrewsbury. Cost £22.
9-10 Sept	U3A conference. More Time to Learn. Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester. Details of programme, costs and booking eform on the U3A web site.
30 Sept	London. Royal Institution autumn meeting. Women in Science and Engineering. Cost £20. Details from National Office.
15 Oct	Exploring Elgar. Elgar Museum, Worcester. Cost £17. Limited places. Apply to U3A National Office.

FORTHCOMING HOLIDAYS AND VISITS

Contact: Margaret McDermott or Ruth Smith

18-22 July	LONDON. Final details after the July meeting. Please try to attend.
5 August	LEEDS M&S Heritage Trail and Lotherton Hall. Lunch included. Please choose your menu at the July meeting. Depart Village Hall at 9am
1-5 Sept	ENNIS. 4 nights Half Board at the West County Hotel. £450 approx. Single Supplement £50. Includes visits to Birr Castle, Cliffs of Moher, Bunratty Castle, Flying Boat Museum and West Clare Railway. There is a cancellation for a twin room. Anyone interested contact Ruth Smith. Final details at the August meeting.
14 Oct	Cruise to Cyprus, Malta and the Holy Land. Further information when prices reduce.
30 Nov	Visit to LUDLOW. 2 nights Half Board. Approx. £200. Includes visits to places of interest including Ludlow Medieval Fayre, Ironbridge or Severn Valley Railway. Deposit £50 at July meeting.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Now-18 Nov	Heroes of Adventure. WW1 exhibition. Quarry Bank
2-5 July	Noel Coward's Tonight at 8.30. Lowry Theatre
5 July	Oscars for Orchestra. Halle Orchestra. Bridgewater hall
6 July	Don Giovanni. Glyndebourne. Macclesfield Cinema
6 July	NT Alderley Edge Guided walk.
8 July	A Small Family Business. NT Live. Stockport Cineworld
8-12 July	Gilbert & Sullivan week. Stockport Plaza. The Mikado & Pirates of Penzance.
8-12 July	Showboat. Lowry Theatre
11-17 July	Buxton Festival . 17 days of opera. music and literature
11-12 July	Alan Ayckbourn's A chorus of Disapproval. Quarry bank
12 July	The Lark Ascending. Halle Orchestra. Bridgewater hall

14 July	MacBeth. Globe theatre. Stockport Cineworld
16 July	War and Peace from the Mariinsky Theatre
17 July	Skylight. NT Live
19 July	Sounds of the Sixties. Halle Orchestra. Bridgewater hall
19 July	Andre Rieu 2014 Maastricht concert. Stockport Cineworld
20 July	Andre Rieu 2014 Maastricht concert. Stockport Plaza
20 July	NT Alderley Edge Guided walk.
20 July	Monty Python Live. Stockport Cineworld
23 July – 20 Sept	War Horse. Lowry Theatre
26 July	Pemberley Walk. Lyme Park
28 July	Midsummer Night's Dream. Globe theatre. Stockport Cineworld
31 July – 1 Aug	The Bridgewater Summer Festival
2 Aug	Last Night of the Halle proms. Halle Orchestra. Bridgewater hall
3 Aug	Last Night of the Proms. Commemorating anniversary of WW1 and WW2. Buxton Opera House
3/10/17/ 24/31 Aug	NT Alderley Edge Guided walk.
5 Aug	Burt Bacharach. Bridgewater Hall
14-16 Aug	The Mikado. Buxton Opera House
30 Aug	Pemberley Walk. Lyme Park
3 Sept	Two gentlemen of Verona. RSC Live Stockport Plaza
4 Sept	Medea. NT Live. Stockport Plaza
4 Sept	Wuthering Heights. Buxton Opera House
18 Sept	Madame Butterfly from Sydney Harbour. Stockport Cineworld
24-27 Sept	Beauty & the Beast. Birmingham Royal Ballet. Lowry Theatre.
27 Sept	Pemberley Walk. Lyme Park
10 Sept – 4 Oct	Romeo and Juliet. Victoria baths. Manchester. Home Theatre
1-3 Oct	Ballet Rambert. Lowry Theatre

IT CORNER

Breezie from ageUK

AgeUK is working with a London company to supply a tablet which is delivered personalised to your needs. This removes the need to learn how to use menus etc and so is designed for people who are less familiar with digital technology. The tablet is a Samsung and is available in two sizes; with an 8" or 10" screen. AgeUK says "it's the easiest way to get online and stay connected with friends, family and hobbies". The Breezie Company also provides a helpline to assist with any problems. The cost is £299 for the 10" tablet, currently discounted from £329. This includes setting up, service for 1 year, a protective case and a 2 year warranty. You can contact the company on 0800 917 7588. More details at

<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/products/computing-and-phones/breezie---the-internet-made-easy/>

Don't forget you can get the Which Guide to tablets free by calling 0800533069 or texting TAB5 to 80057.

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEB SITE RECENTLY?

www.highlaneu3a.org.uk



The screenshot shows the High Lane U3A website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: WHO WE ARE | WHAT WE DO | NEWSLETTER | INFORMATION. Below this is the U3A logo and the text 'High Lane Stockport, England'. A large photo of a building is on the right. The main text describes the organization's purpose: 'We provide Educational, Recreational and Leisure Activities for retired and semi-retired people living in High Lane and the surrounding area. We have over 400 members. There are no obstacles to joining; no qualifications are needed and there are no exams.' It lists 32 interest groups including Art, Ballet, Chess, Churches & Pubs, Cinema Club, etc. A section titled 'If you are over 50 and are interested in joining...' encourages visitors to come to a meeting or see the membership page. At the bottom, there are four small images with captions: 'WHO WE ARE When & Where We Meet Membership The Pennine Link', 'WHAT WE DO Interest Groups Group Timetable click below for An excellent Introduction to the U3A video!', '!!! STOP PRESS !!! May Newsletter Newsletter Archive U3A Regional Website NWRRegionalNewsletter', and 'INFORMATION Local Services Timetables Government Bodies.' A link 'NEW ON THIS SITE!' is at the bottom right.

This is the place to go to get up to date information about your U3A and your groups. You can also read the newsletter here and find out about local issues such as Council and Homewatch information.

Of course the website relies on the group leaders to send their information to the webmaster so the site can be kept up to date. If you have not visited the site recently why not have a look. **If there are things you would like to see on the website please let Peter, our webmaster know. You can contact him at** webmaster@highlaneu3a.org.uk.

GROUP REPORTS

BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 1 & 2

May Meeting:

Prog 1

At this meeting we all enjoyed a light hearted ballet full of fun and very colourful. The dancing was superb and the principal dancers were brilliant.

The Royal Ballet "La Fille Mal Gardee"

Principal Dancers- Marianela Nunez & Carlos Acosta

Choreographer-Frederick Ashton

Prog 2

"Chaconne" – New York City Ballet"

Suzanne Farrell & Peter Martins

Choreographer-Balanchine – music - Gluck

A chaconne is a dance built on a short phrase in the bass that was often used by composers of the 17th and 18th centuries to end an opera in a festive mood.

"La Dansa de las Horas" (in English "The Dance of the Hours") – music by Ponchielli. "Letizia Guilane & Angel Corella" dance a very risqué Pas De Deux which needless to say we all enjoyed very much after the shock of the female dancer being topless. The whole ballet was very colourful and energetic; as usual the dancing was brilliant.

June Meeting:

Prog 1

At this meeting we enjoyed a "Mixed Bill" by way of a change. Four Pas Des Deux were performed by the "Kirov Ballet" to music by "Pugni" including "Fete des Fleurs a Venzano", "Le Vivandiere", "Carnaval de Venise" and "Pas de Quatre"

Prog 2 (Sky Arts 2)

This documentary follows the career of a set of Cuban triplets aged 11 at a Cuban Ballet School. It is wonderful to see how they progress and how enthusiastic these three boys are. This ballet school caters for all ages of boys and girls and lessons are free. It is very popular in Cuba for boys to take up ballet and there are no problems for them as it is very acceptable. Many of them finish up in Ballet Companies all over the world; Carlos Acosta is their role model of course.

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.

28th May / 5th June: The theme was the Royal Danish Ballet. We saw several examples of the Danish style of dancing, which is characterised by delicate, fleeting steps and soaring jumps. This was followed by La Sylphide, performed by the Danish Royal Ballet in 1988. Originally performed in 1836, this was the first 'white ballet', with the corps de ballet dressed in white as sylphs.

25th June / 3rd July: We saw the Royal Ballet performing two pieces, both love stories: Winter Dreams, based on Chekhov's play 'Three Sisters'. Marguerite and Armand, originally created by Frederick Ashton for Fonteyn and Nureyev. It was not danced by anyone else for thirty years. We watched Tamara Rojo, in her farewell performance at Covent Garden. This was followed by a short extract from a documentary on the choreographer John Neumeier's version of the story of Marguerite and Armand.

At the next session we will see John Neumeier's ballet La Dame aux Camelias, danced by the Paris Opera Ballet. The two versions of the story are very different, set to different music, and are both very beautiful.

Meg Humphries

CHURCHES AND PUBS

St. Mary, Alderley – 7 May

Hidden from the main A34 road, yet only a few yards down a lane opposite Nether Alderley Mill lies the 14th century Church of St. Mary. Passing old cottages and under spreading beech trees you discover the hidden treasure. Through the Church gates is the Elizabethan school, built in 1628, for the basic education of boys of the Parish and used until 1908. Then you see the Stanley Mausoleum, built in 1909 by the 4th Lord Stanley and his wife. Then in front of you is the treasure that is the Church of St. Mary Alderley. Beautiful Victorian stained glass windows catch the eye. Look upward to the barrel-shaped ceiling in the Nave, built in the 16th century, but covered with a false ceiling which was uncovered in 1877. The 14th century Font shows signs of having been abused; it

was buried under the yew tree in the grave yard, possibly for its protection at some point. It remained hidden until 1821 and was finally reinstated in its present position in 1924. In the 1600s the Stanley family built their own pew, looking down on the south aisle and only accessible from outside the Church. Inside, it both looks and feels like a Royal box at the Opera House -such comfort. Altogether the Church and its history are real gems and well worth a visit. We all went on to the Davenport Arms in Marton for a thoroughly enjoyable lunch. A good day was had by all. Thank you Paul

Maureen Howells

June 4 All Saints Bakewell

Despite a rainy day 48 members were given a warm welcome and refreshments on arrival at All Saints church in Bakewell.



The first recorded church on the site was around 800, recorded in the Domesday Book as having two priests. In 1110 William Peverel, son of William the Conqueror,

rebuilt the church in the Norman style; it was remodelled in the 13th century. In the 1400s battlements were added and a large new font was installed together with some beautiful stained glass windows. The choir stalls were elaborately carved during the 19th century and include some medieval remnants. In the priests' stalls the seats lift up to reveal misericords, so called because the clergy were allowed to rest against them during long services. A section of the church behind a screen originally held two or three chapels. After the Reformation it became a mortuary chapel for the Vernon and Manners families. Lady Grace Manners founded the Lady Manners School.

The 14th century steeple was taken down in 1825 as it had gradually buckled under its own weight. Part of the church was then rebuilt with a new spire 16 feet shorter than the old one. This building work also uncovered quantities of Saxon and early English stones. The nave interior was also altered around this time and new pews and pulpit installed. A mosaic and marble floor, new high altar and reredos were added. All the stained glass windows were destroyed during the Reformation and the present ones were installed during the mid to late 19th century.



A famous window by Henry Holiday is an example of pre-Raphaelite work.

After a short drive we came to the pretty village of Great

Longstone where lunch awaited us at the Crispin Inn. The food and service were excellent and enjoyed by all. A lovely day out.

Dorothy Gerrard

CINEMA CLUB

The Cinema Club is flourishing and gaining new members. 19 people went to see "Belle", which was a beautiful film. Our next visit is Mrs Brown's Boys. We have our future sights set on diverse subjects such as Princess Grace and Mr Turner.

Anyone can come along and join us at The Regent Cinema in Marple. Some of our members are already regular cinema goers others haven't been to the cinema in years. But it's a good night out, not far to travel and we are supporting Marple's very special cinema. Do come along some time. Please contact me for current details.

Sheila Harrop

CRAFT AND NEEDLEWORK

We last met on the 12th June and those who had completed items brought them along to show the group. Some, including myself, have been rather lazy of late and haven't produced very much but, no doubt, we will become more enthusiastic, when the colder weather arrives.

In May we spent a session sorting out a box of buttons which Amy brought along. It was surprisingly satisfying and quite therapeutic. We hope to offer the sets of buttons for sale at one of the autumn meetings. We next meet on 10th July, our last meeting before September.

Marlene Brookes

CROWN GREEN BOWLING GROUP

Thursday mornings are continually being supported with a strong group of regular members. No matter what the weather promises, we more often than not find that we get two hours of kindly weather to play on Thursdays. The new Tuesday group is developing nicely; each week this is growing stronger with new members, beginners and experienced players joining us. If anyone has any crown green bowls they are no longer using please get in touch with me or someone else in the bowling group.

Note that you need a Local Authority Bowling pass. This lasts for twelve months and allows the holder to play on any green in the Stockport area. The cost is £25 and you can get one from either Stockport Town Hall, Hazel Grove and Marple Libraries.

Our next organised event is a 'Round Robin' friendly in Prestatyn at Len and Pat Wilson's other club. They made us very welcome last year and we are looking forward to a trip there on Monday 21st July. This will be followed by a meal at a local eating place before returning home.

Margaret Evans

CURRENT AFFAIRS

On 7th May Pam opened the meeting with the subject of the trials of certain public figures accused of breaking the law 20, 30, 40 years ago. The crimes were of a sexual nature and the accusers claimed to remember the minutest details of the alleged sexual attacks. The question was asked "Should there be a statute of limitations?" At what point does the accuracy of the memory become questionable? Did the accuser keep a diary? Why wait for decades before reporting it to the police? Is the principle to be extended to other historical occurrences? If the only evidence is a person's memory, is this sufficient? It opens the door to all manner of accusations which seem to depend entirely on the accused pleading guilty.

The next item to be discussed was the existence in the UK of food banks. There is an apparent need for such a service in some families, even those who are in employment. We also found out that food banks exist in other countries in the EU. The equivalent in the

U.S.A. is the handing out of food coupons which can be exchanged for food but only for a limited period at specified shops.

We next discussed the stabbing to death of a teacher by a pupil in front of a classroom full of other pupils. Speculation as to motive was pointless. The only aspect of this tragedy which we felt able to comment on was "should schools install precautionary measures such as metal detectors as used in airports?" Or do they need security staff to screen all students?

The case of the armed robber nicknamed 'skull crusher' who was given 13 life sentences and eventually transferred to an OPEN prison from which he walked away, surprised and amazed the group. What were the Prison Authorities thinking of?

Finally we gave some time to UKIP and the redoubtable Nigel Farage. He has panache, charisma and an endless supply of dodgy statistics which he quotes at the drop of the word immigrant. But no matter what fresh calamity strikes UKIP, Nigel laughs it off, cracks a joke and carries on. The lad has style, if little else.

June meeting

The Group discussed some of the topics to which the media had given the most prominence. This is not to say that we agreed with their choice.

We talked at some length about the open prison system and the fact that over a period of several years a number of prisoners had escaped, some of whom were in prison for committing violent crimes. This raised the question of how the prison system is organised. It would seem that transfer to open prison takes place for some long term prisoners when they are coming to the end of their sentence. The aim is to ease them back into normal society gradually. So although we could see that the purpose of open prisons is commendable, it is inevitable that some prisoners will see no reason to wait and will anticipate their release by walking away i.e. escaping.

Next on the list was the recent bye-election at Newark with the oft posed question "is this the end of the Lib-Dems?" We agreed that this was most unlikely; it was not a General Election and UKIP took many votes from all parties by making promises which it has no chance of keeping. They also scared many voters with their nonsense about immigration.

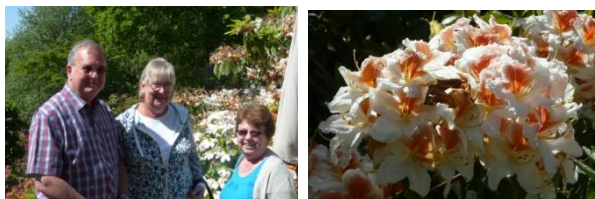
We next tried the media question "Should parents be treated as criminals if they have grossly overweight children". The media had quoted the example of a 15 year old child who weighed 15 stone. No Government will oppose the sugar lobby or the food and drink manufacturers so becoming overweight is perhaps inevitable amongst low income groups. It seems that pressure groups have influenced the Government because they have announced that legislation is to be introduced to lower the permitted sugar level in foods etc.

We then discussed the unseemly and apparently very personal row, between the Home Secretary and the Minister for Education. There was some finger pointing, stamping of feet and lost tempers at Cabinet level but eventually the PM got a grip and cooled the situation. As none of us could say who was in the right we could comment only on the personalities involved.

The report that some white working class children were at the bottom of the attainment tables was discussed but as some members of the group pointed out there are many factors affecting this situation and to assume that all the different groups have similar circumstances, ambitions, qualities etc., is illogical.

Jim McDermott

GARDENING



Seven travelled to Lea Gardens near Matlock, and after a lovely sunny scenic drive through Derbyshire, were bowled over by the gorgeous Rhododendron garden. Sheltered in a former millstone quarry, and by tall trees, is a unique collection of rhododendrons and azaleas in a myriad of colours. Particularly striking were the banks of deciduous azaleas with their powerful scent, the large flower heads of late rhododendrons, and the lush acers and dwarf evergreens in the pools area. Plenty of seats, a friendly and homely tea room, and tempting choice plants for sale, all helped to make it a memorable trip.

MARPLE BRIDGE & MELLOR U3A OPEN GARDENING GROUP

Lovely mid-spring sunshine showed Bodnant Gardens near Conway at its best for the members outing in May. The rhododendrons and azaleas resplendent in glorious colour were set off to perfection against a background of century-old trees, nestling in a valley surrounded by the hills of North Wales. A great day out!

Something altogether different was on the agenda for the June meeting, when a packed audience listened to Mr. David Tideswell's talk on Garden Birds in Spring and Summer. Knowledgeable guidance on the how, what, where and when of enticing birds into your garden, complemented by photographic slides and all woven together with great humour. An excellent meeting appreciated by the enthusiastic members.

Our meeting on August 13th gives members of the group a chance to show off their skills at the annual Horticultural Show of vegetables and flowers from their gardens. Gardening Group members may enter as many exhibits in as many categories as they wish - the winner gets a small prize - and a large feeling of satisfaction!

The categories are:

1. Sweet Peas
2. Potatoes
3. Beans, any variety
4. Tomatoes
5. Vegetable/Salad assortment
6. Posy of flowers
7. Single flower
8. Hydrangea heads
9. Bunch/vase of perennials
10. Unusual shaped vegetable
11. Fruit
12. Conserve (to be tasted and checked by two judges)

On September 10th we are having a repeat of the Cutting Exchange which was so successful last year, members to bring along cuttings to exchange and pot-up. Meetings at the usual venue, Marple Methodist Church at 9.45 a.m. for coffee/tea, meeting starts at 10 o'clock

Jean Parrish

GERMAN

After our return from Vienna we had quite a lot to talk about as five members of the group had much to relate about our many and varied experiences. Some of the newspapers and magazines picked up on route have provided us with interesting reading matter concerning the relevance of Shakespeare to life nowadays and a cleaner's destruction of a work of modern art.

We are indebted to Ruth Smith for providing us with some surprising obituaries in a newspaper she brought back from Munich which also contained an interesting article on high-achieving Bavarian Royals. We were pleased to welcome back Barry Meakin after an extensive tour of Australia which he told us all about last week. We shall have our last meeting this summer on 18th July and resume on 12th September.

Marlene Brookes

HISTORY**History of computing**

Diane began by going back to the earliest known days of calculating machines; the first known piece of equipment was the abacus dated in various civilisations from about 2000BC. Children in Japan are still taught to use an abacus. The binary system on which our present day system is based dates back to the ancient world in various forms in China and India. Early developments were in finding way to mechanise arithmetic processes. In 1642 Pascal invented a calculator that could add, subtract and divide and in the 1700s a wooden geared calculating machine was invented. The 1800s saw the development of the differential engine by Charles Babbage. Babbage also created a design for what would have been the first general purpose computer but this was not built and we had to wait nearly 100 years for this to be a reality.

Many of the developments in this area were from the UK and USA. In 1927 Alan Turing developed the concept of a theoretical computing machine; the Turing Machine. The invention of the transistor in 1947 revolutionised computing as devices could be made much smaller. The 1950s saw the emergence of mass produced computers and the 1980s the incursion of computers into our homes; maybe you remember the Spectrum, BBC Micro and the Commodore Pet? Once we were able to get

computers to 'talk' to each other, we had the foundations for the world of the internet and social networking. The World Wide Web was launched in 1991 along with WiFi which has enabled the huge growth in mobile devices that we have seen in recent years.

Pam Curley

PHILOSOPHY**May meeting**

John Ashton led a discussion about 'Identity'. How do people and things change over time and what, if anything remains the same? What makes us the 'same' people we were 40 years ago despite appearances to the contrary! Consciousness; memories; minds; and even souls were all considered as candidates to 'explain' the continuity of self. Opinions were divided and a variety of personal experiences were put forward as evidence for and against the various options. This led to a debate about how far a person could be held responsible for past actions or crimes – even ones they may not remember having committed.

June meeting

Due to the absence of the speaker, our planned discussion on Edmund Burke had to be postponed to a future meeting. Liam Canavan obligingly agreed to deliver his talk on 'Compliance' scheduled for the next meeting instead. Liam presented some examples of bizarre behaviour by individuals in America who thought that they were carrying out the instructions of people in authority. Later revealed as hoaxers, the miscreants had managed to convince people to go to extraordinary lengths to comply with their orders. How does this sort of 'obedience' manifest itself in our lives? Could we be hoodwinked to the same degree? The discussion then opened out to an examination of 'victimhood'. Are there natural victims or does it depend on our approach to life? Does taking a positive rather than a negative attitude change how we are perceived by others and how does the language we use serve to entrench a victim mentality by, for example, blaming others for our misfortunes and lack of achievements?

If you would like information about the group please contact me on 0161 494 2560.

Lisa Czynievska

PHOTOGRAPHY

At our May meeting, four members met at Lyme Park for an hour's photo taking. We had hazy sun, with distant mist limiting views and the gardens had not yet opened but there were plenty of varied subjects – how good the shots were, will be found out at a later meeting! We then retired to the timber yard cafe, and from previously printed pictures, we selected three – all of Hazel Grove gardens – one each from Diane, Pam and Walter. You can view these on the website.

June meeting

The competition subject for this meeting was 'Bridges'. We had a wide variety of photographs of bridges old and new. We found selecting a winning photograph very difficult firstly due to the small number of members attending the meeting but also because we found it very difficult to focus on the quality of the photography rather than the design of the bridge itself, the setting and the backgrounds. Chris Gibson's photograph of the Millennium Bridge on the Tyne at Newcastle was selected as a narrow winner. You can see some of our other bridge photographs here as well.



Diane took us through some things to think about when photographing bridges including formats, angles, contrasts and time of day. She then showed a YouTube video of some of the beautiful bridges of the world which highlighted the advantages of taking photographs at night-time. We finished with a look at some of the winning photographs in the 2014 Sony World Photography Competition – these were on display at Somerset House and can now be viewed on the website at <http://www.worldphoto.org/about-the-sony-world-photography-awards/national-award/>. The winning photograph from the UK was a dramatic shot of the escalators at Canary Wharf station.

The next meeting is 17 July when the competition subject is Local History. We will also be reviewing our photos taken on the photoshoot in Lyme Park in the May meeting. This group has lost some members recently. Please contact me if you are interested in joining.

Walter Mason

READING

At the June meeting, the Reading Group discussed Sweet Tooth by Ian McEwen and You by Joanna Briscoe. We spent most of the time discussing You, which some of us hadn't read. Despite this, maybe because of this, a very good discussion took place. The book for July is Black Water Rising by Attica Locke. We next meet at Sue Dintinger's house on 9th July.

Sue Dintinger

SINGING

The singing group is practising for two upcoming concerts in August. We would welcome new and returning members in September when we will be starting to practise for the winter concerts. Sopranos and gentlemen singers are especially welcome.

Pam Wood

STROLLERS

Suggestions for walks are always appreciated. Please feel free to join us at 9.45 am on the last Monday of the month. For more information please call either June Gibbs or Jean Goldsmith.

June Gibbs

WALKING**EARLY MAY WALK**

Steve's advertised and innovative barbecue walk for 18, became an "ordinary" walk for 4, when at the last minute the Royal Oak was unable to make the barbecue. It was a shame, when pleasant weather belied the forecast showers, and the charming route would have been perfect for working up a gentle appetite! We cut down towards the Roman Lakes, and followed the River Goyt upstream, before making the steady climb to Brookbottom.



The Fox Inn was not serving, but cans of beer miraculously appeared from a haversack, and refreshed us for the scenic track back to Mellor Golf course, the scout camp, and our cars. Many thanks to Steve, and hopefully he will try a barbecue walk again, with a more secure barbecue.

28 MAY

A depressing weather forecast forced a last minute rethink, and an alternative venue was chosen at Fernilee reservoir. So instead of Derbyshire limestone, Brian and Alison led a small group into the lush woodland of the gritstone Goyt valley. It proved to be a very good choice. Overnight rain had given spring leaves a bright sparkle, in myriad shades of green. The tracks through the woods were firm underfoot. And the best bonus of all, as we started the walk, rain stopped and held off for the duration.



Forestry felling has opened up clearances in places, and several huge trees had been toppled by recent squalls, but this didn't mar our enjoyment of this lovely and varied wooded area, surrounding the two reservoirs constructed in the last century for Stockport drinking water. So we were very pleased to thank Brian and Alison for this walk.

TUESDAY 10 June

Eight joined Richard and Susan on a one way walk from Disley to Hazel Grove. It turned out to be a lovely bright day, just perfect for walking. We passed the Disley Quaker house and the old church of St. Mary, then went the back way to Lyme along Red Lane, before skirting past Ryles Wood and Middlecale Farm to the canal. We went by Middle Wood and across the A6 to the Royal Oak and on to little used field paths to Threaphurst Lane and Hazel Grove Golf Course, before diverting under the tunnels to the Racecourse estate and Torkington Park. A mere 5 minute wait and the 199 bus took us back to Disley and pleasant meals at the White Horse. Thanks to Richard and Susan for a very good morning's walk.

WEDNESDAY 25 June

13 were on Sam and Irene's walk from Ashford in the Water. Fine weather greeted us at Sheepwash Bridge, as we started the gentle climb through field paths towards Monsal Head. We survived encounters with a "gentle" bull, inquisitive cows with calves, and jungly vegetation lining some paths, with nettles a threat to the brave walkers in shorts. After a coffee break and a viewing break overlooking Monsal Dale, we crossed the now disused railway viaduct and descended to the River Wye for an idyllic lunch spot. After crossing the A6, a limestone scramble tested the less surefooted before a pleasant amble through woods sprinkled with ash seedlings and faded remnants of wild garlic. We passed the double underfed waterwheel building at Magpie Sough – a failed attempt to bring profitability to the Magpie mine at Sheldon. Thanks to Sam and Irene for their lovely walk with picturesque views throughout and a leisurely pace.

Walter Mason

Please don't forget to send all contributions for the next newsletter to me at

newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk

by Saturday 23 August 2014. Thank you

Diane Saxon