

WINE TASTING EVENING 30 September 2016




High Lane U3A
Wine Tasting Evening
 6 wines to taste
 3 Whites and three Reds.
 Introduced by U3A Members and Friends
 Friday 30 September 2016
 7:30 pm
 High Lane Village Hall
Tickets £6
 Numbers are limited.
High Lane U3A Members only please.


At this event members and friends will present a series of six different wines for you to taste. There will be three whites and three reds of varying styles to suit all tastes plus a selection of cheese and savoury biscuits. Tickets cost £6 and will be on sale at the August and September meetings.

GROUP NEWS

Group Leaders meeting

Group Leaders and the Committee had their annual joint meeting on Friday 1 July, at which reports were presented for each of the groups. A number of groups reported that they have spaces for new members including Art, Backgammon, Ballet Appreciation, Card making, Philosophy, Photography. The Singing group requires some additional tenors and the Theatre matinee group has room for some more attendees.

If you are interested in any of these groups please get in touch with the Group Leader who will be able to give you more details.

This cute owl lives in High Lane. Do you know where to find him? Thanks to Jeff Robinson from the Photography Group for the photograph.



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WHEN ATTENDING YOUR GROUP MEETING

Please let your Group Leader know whether or not you will be attending the meeting. Some members are not doing this and it can cause problems for Group Leaders when arranging accommodation and equipment.

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

The next edition of the newsletter will be the September 2016 edition. Please can you get your contributions to me by 31 August?

MONTHLY MEETINGS

MAY MEETING

At this meeting we were excellently entertained by the Singing group who presented a varied programme of songs ranging from Vivaldi to Abba. Thanks to Tony and Margaret and all the group members.



The singing was followed by two interesting talks given by Amy Summers and John Carroll.

JUNE MEETING

The arranged speaker was unable to come and talk to us so we were fortunate to secure the services of Stephen Ablett, a local professional magician. Stephen regaled us with stories of his life as a travelling magician and children's entertainer with some amazing magic tricks along the way.



After the talk members were able to purchase some of Stephen's many books. If you missed the talk, there are videos of Stephen on Youtube and on his website <http://www.amazingstephen.co.uk/Speaker.Lecturer.htm>

REFLECTIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Your Committee has been reflecting on how they got involved in U3A and the running of the group. Here are the reflections of a couple of Committee members.



Four years ago I walked into High Lane Village Hall for my very first U3A meeting. I loved it; the speaker was great; people were friendly without being pushy. It was just what I was looking for; I was hooked. I tried several groups and went on visits but most of all I met kindred spirits and made new, valuable friends. It soon became apparent that volunteers were in short supply. I had only been a member for a short while, but did I have anything to offer? So I offered my services. I thought I could at least give it a go for 12 months - and I'm still here.

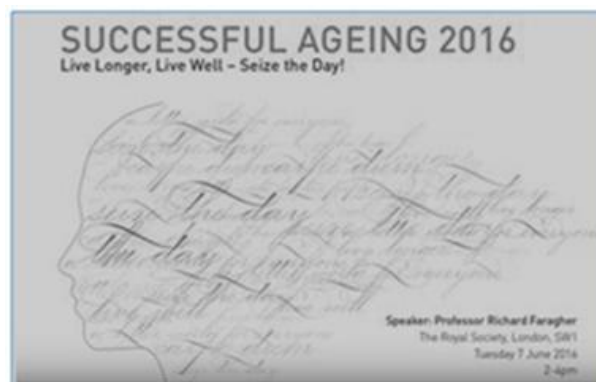


I joined U3A soon after leaving my full time job. I attended a few meetings but didn't get to know many people. I was surprised to find that there were always problems with finding people to run groups and be on the Committee so I volunteered to help. Through this I have met new people and done new things but I have found that a few people do a lot of work to keep our U3A active and to extend the range of activities we offer to members - and many of those people have been keeping it going for a long time. Running a group or being on the Committee doesn't take up a lot of time and is enjoyable as well. Don't be afraid to offer to help!

U3A STAYS SHARP AT THE ROYAL SOCIETY

270 U3A members attended the annual Staying Sharp meeting at the Royal Society on 7th June. Click the link for the recording of Professor Richard Faragher's lively talk 'Live Longer, Live Well – Seize the Day'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=prg77TVOQQ>



NATIONAL OFFICE ADVICE RE FINANCIAL SCAMS



Financial Conduct Authority

Be a ScamSmart investor

Investment scams are designed to look like genuine investments.

Spot the warning signs.

Have you been...

- contacted out of the blue
- promised tempting returns and told the investment is safe
- called repeatedly, or
- told the offer is only available for a limited time?

If so, you might have been contacted by fraudsters

How to avoid investment fraud

- 1 Reject cold calls**
If you've been cold called about an investment opportunity, chances are it's very risky or a scam.
The safest thing to do is hang up.
- 2 Check the firm on the FCA Warning List**
www.scamsmart.fca.org.uk/warninglist
Make sure your firm isn't on our list of firms to avoid.
- 3 Get impartial advice**
Seek impartial advice from a financial adviser unconnected to the firm that has contacted you **before** you make an investment.

Remember: if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

Report a scam
If you suspect that you have been approached by fraudsters please tell the FCA using the share fraud reporting form at www.fca.org.uk/scams, where you can find out more about investment scams. You can also call the FCA Consumer Helpline on 0800 111 6768.
If you have lost money to investment fraud, you should report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or online at www.actionfraud.police.uk.
Find out more at www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart

ONLINE COURSES FOR JULY

Your editor enjoyed her Italian course which was presented by the University of Siena. There were over 1000 students.

There are 52 new courses starting in July - the list below is just a few of those.

- Cyber security
- Zika virus
- Soils
- WW1 heroism
- Football
- Dementia
- Magna Carta
- Family tree
- Parkinsons Disease
- Robbie Burns

And many many more

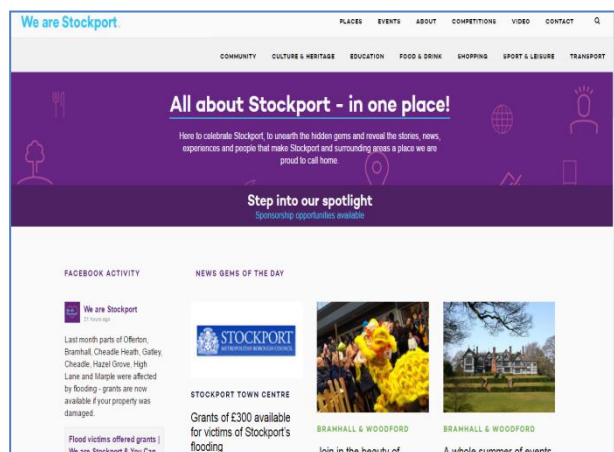
You will need to register for the course(s) by clicking the Join link on the relevant web page.
<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses>

Courses such as these could form the basis for a group where member studied together and used what they had learnt as the basis for discussions and further activities. If you have an idea please contact Meg Humphries, our Groups co-ordinator.

WE ARE STOCKPORT

We are Stockport is a new online publishing platform which plans to 'unearth the hidden gems and reveal the stories, heroes, news and experiences that make Stockport and the surrounding areas a great place to live, work and play.'

www.wearestockport.co.uk

PROBLEM SOLVING SOFTWARE STUDY
Sheffield University

Researchers at Sheffield University are conducting a study into over 65s attitude to computer based problem solving software. The study is split into two parts:

Part 1: A short multiple choice questionnaire that explores your views on computer based problem-solving programs. At the end of the questionnaire you will be asked if you wish to receive further information about Part 2 of the study. Part 1 can be completed at the following link:

https://sheffieldpsychology.eu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_4GFo1fuFCMeAo5

Part 2: Participation in the use of computer based problem-solving programs.

Contact Matthew Bennion at Sheffield if you have any questions. m.bennion@sheffield.ac.uk

FORTHCOMING U3A ACTIVITIES

8 July	Summer Social . Buffet and Shakespeare. Doors open at 7:30 pm. Please bring your own drinks and glasses.
13 July	The Lady Policeman. Talk by Karen Corcoran
10 August	Life in the House of Commons. Talk by William Wragg MP. Exhibitions by Art and Photography groups.
14 Sept	Advances in Medical Imaging. Bernard Loveday
30 Sept	Wine Tasting evening

NATIONAL U3A EVENTS

14 July	Swan Lake London Coliseum. U3A exclusive talk with principal dancers. Discounted tickets £45. Book 020 7845 9300 and quote 'U3A offer or book online at www.eno.org and enter promo code 'u3a'.
8 - 11 Aug	Annual Science seminar. Harper Adams Uni, Telford.
30 Aug - 2 Sep	NW Regional Summer School. Newton Rigg Agricultural College near Penrith. Details and booking arrangements - The NW Regional website: www.u3sites.org.uk/north-west . Any queries contact David Joseph 07831473157

FORTHCOMING HOLIDAYS AND VISITS

Contact: Margaret McDermott or Ruth Smith

12 July	Countdown at Media City
17 August	Ordsall Hall and Imperial War Museum. The coach leaves the Village Hall at 9:30am Approx. £18
30 Aug-3 Sept	IRELAND. Flight from Manchester to Belfast. 4 nights HB at Jackson's Hotel Ballybofey. Includes Glenveagh Nat. Park, Donegal, Malin Head, Derry, Bushmills Whisky Distillery, Giant's Causeway, etc Final details at August meeting
29 Sept	CHESTER. Afternoon tea on canal boat. Payment at July meeting.
18 Oct	BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATIONS £22 Payment at July meeting
2 Dec	Christmas lunch at Tatton Hall. £34. Payment due in August.

HUMOUR CORNER

Bought some 'rocket salad' yesterday but it went off before I could eat it.
Nothing is fool proof to a sufficiently talented fool.
I'd tell you a chemistry joke but I know I wouldn't get a reaction.

A SILLY POEM BY Spike Milligan

Said Hamlet to Ophelia,
I'll draw a sketch of thee,
What kind of pencil shall I use?
2B or not 2B?

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Now - October	Vogue 100: A Century of Style. Manchester Art Gallery
Now - Sept	Climate Control. Manchester Museum
9 July	Walk with the Rangers at Lyme Park
13 July	Organ Tour. Bridgewater hall
16 July	Sherlock Holmes. Outdoor Theatre at Dunham Massey.
16/17 July	Plant Hunter's Fair Henbury Hall gardens.
16/17 July	Vintage car festival. Speke Hall
19 July	Wagner's Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg. Recorded live at Glyndebourne Festival 2011. Stockport Plaza
20/24 July	RHS Flower Show. Tatton Park
22/23 July	Dad's army 2016 film. Stockport Plaza
24 July	Andre Rieu 2016 Maastricht concert
28 July	90 Glorious Years. Stockport Plaza
29 July	Jailhouse Rock. Stockport Plaza
30/31 July	Grand reopening of Bramhall Hall. Pre booked tickets only
31 July	Last of the Halle Proms. Bridgewater Hall
6 Aug	Florence Foster Jenkins. Stockport Plaza

GROUP REPORTS

ART

The Art group will be having a display of some of their work at the August meeting. Our members will be displaying a range of their skills. Please come and have a look.

Brian Chadwick

BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 1 AND 2

May/June Meetings

The May & June group meetings featured extracts from many well loved ballets, all performed by the Royal Ballet Company. The programmes included some of the best loved highlights from the Royal Ballet Company's classical repertory and included ballets by its two great choreographers Frederick Ashton and Kenneth MacMillan. This particular selection was shown in two parts during the May and June meetings.

Some of the extracts shown are as follows:

- "Romeo & Juliet" (The Ballroom)
- "Sleeping Beauty" (Rose Adage)
- "The Firebird" (infernial Dance)
- "La Fille Mal Gardee" (Act 1- pas de deux)
- "Giselle" (Act 2-pas de deux)
- "Romeo & Juliet" (Balcony pas de deux)
- "Sylvia" (pas de deux)
- "Swan Lake" (The Cygnets Act 2)
- "Coppelia" (Act 2)
- "The Nutcracker" pas de deux (Act 2)
- "Swan Lake" (Pas de trios)

The May meeting also included a documentary featuring the work of Zizi and Roland Petit, a husband and wife partnership of choreography and dance.

As part of the June meeting the complete ballet of "Vivald's Four Seasons" was shown, a beautiful ballet featuring "The National Ballet of Canada.

Sheila Hall

BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 3 AND 4

25th May / 2nd June: We looked at work by two modern choreographers (1960s).

We started with Notre Dame de Paris, choreographed by Roland Petit. Victor Hugo's story of the Hunchback of Notre Dame was vividly portrayed by the Paris Opera Ballet. This was followed by two short pieces from a festival staged by the Dutch National Ballet to celebrate the work of the choreographer Hans van Manen.

Those who attended these sessions enjoyed the programme, but half of each group cancelled at short notice. Because of this, I have decided to take a break for the summer. Meetings will restart at the end of August, if there is sufficient interest.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining us.

Meg Humphries

CARD MAKING

The card making group has had another productive couple of meetings learning new techniques and making some gorgeous cards.



This card made in May includes flowers made out of vellum. Flower shapes are stamped on to the vellum using a sticky ink, gold embossing powder is applied to the ink, then melted to give a really pretty flower outline, which can then be cut out, shaped, and layers built up into a flower. It might sound complicated, but is actually very straightforward, and so effective. Add some coloured gems to the centres and voila, a really classy card for someone special. Some people decided to add a sentiment at home once they'd decided how they wanted to use the card - to celebrate a birthday, a special

anniversary, or maybe a wedding.

We also made a really useful - as well as pretty - dual purpose card - a birthday (or general greeting) card with a pocket to hold a gift card, cheque, or money - known as a wallet card. The centres of these flowers are made from tiny little beads, known as micro beads, held together by a good strong glue.



Ever wondered what to do with those thin pieces of satin ribbon sewn into clothes to secure them on hangers? Well, in June, we made cards using them! We tied tiny knots in the ribbon and placed them on stems to make leaves (or are they flowers?) - look at the variety of colours on these cards - aren't they pretty?

Once our fingers had recovered (making all those little knots was very fiddly!) we spent some time playing with our new piece of equipment, bought from funds raised by the group - a Grand Calibur die cutting machine. Everyone had chance to put dies through the machine to produce some delicate and useful flowers, butterflies, delicately shaped layers, and sentiments. We also had a play with some embossing folders, turning plain white or coloured card into textured and patterned card - this really lifts a plain card and makes it more sophisticated and professional - see the dotty white layer on the wallet card above for an example.

As every good card crafter knows, the summer months bring thoughts of, and preparation for, Christmas. I know it seems excessively early, but if you are planning to make your own Christmas cards, or make them to sell at fairs or for charity, you have to start pretty early. So from September onwards, the group plan to start making Christmas cards - probably just one a month (at first!). This is a really good time for any new card crafters to join us; we still have a few vacant seats at the table.

The group meets on the first Thursday of every month at St Thomas' Church Hall, at 1.30. Contact the group leaders to find out more and arrange to join us for a taster session.

Christine Fox
Dot Green

CHURCHES AND PUBS

St Helens, Darley Dale



On arrival at St Helens church in Darley Dale we were greeted with tea, coffee and biscuits which is always welcome. Just outside the south porch is a yew tree which is claimed to be 2000 years old and is one of the thickest in England with a girth of around 33 feet, 4 feet from the ground. Around the base of the tree are stone tablets commemorating some outstanding actions during the Second World War.

The church has architecture from the Norman to the perpendicular Gothic periods. The exterior shows an interesting mix of architectural styles. A blocked-up Norman doorway in the south wall of the chancel has, to the west, an early English lancet window and to the east a buttress of the decorated period and, further to the right over the chancel door, a window in perpendicular style.

The interior of the church displays various craftsmanship of different styles divided into aisles and naves to the north and south. Looking at them the south arcade is a different period to the north. On the east wall of the church is a narrow window. These windows were sometimes called the 'lepers' windows and were left open during services so that infected people could take part without having to go inside the church.

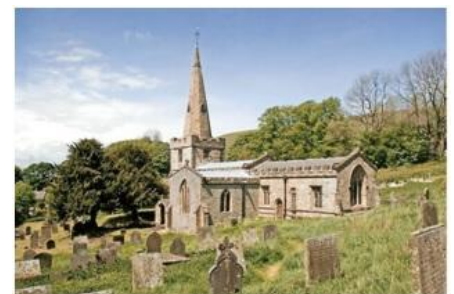
The church was restored and enlarged between 1854 and 1855 by Henry Isaac Stevens. The church was again restored in 1908 by the architect Percy Heylyn Curry. The church has a pipe organ built by Brindley and Foster.

After an interesting morning we just drove down the road to the Square and Compass for an enjoyable lunch.

Paul Kenneth

St John the Baptist Chelmorton

Our June visit was to St. John the Baptist parish church in Chelmorton, Derbyshire located south of Buxton and reputed to be one of the highest churches in England. At 1200 feet above sea level it is subject to the extremes of the Pennine weather conditions and it shows.



Due to the unavoidable absence of our guide, an apologetic John Fountain "volunteered" to address us and to his credit he had adorned areas of the interior with storyboards which illustrated the historical past of the Chelmorton community. He admitted to having no knowledge of the church's history nor the fabric of its structure.

Being dedicated to John the Baptist the associated locust image appeared in areas of the church including the weather vane on the spire. Established in the 13th century there was evidence of both Norman and early Gothic construction. The columns and arches which flanked the nave beneath the clerestory best illustrated this feature although the row of Norman arches were believed to be recovered material from an earlier building and reconstructed on the present site. Interestingly the font and altar were also recovered items from local churches which were closed to allow the flooding of the Ladybower valley to form the reservoir we know today.

Following our visit we crossed the narrow highway to the Church Inn where we knew from a previous visit, we would be well looked after. As we have grown to expect the event was planned to perfection thanks to Paul.

Brian Burke

CRAFT AND NEEDLEWORK

Our projects have been many and varied this year! The group is mainly engaged in knitting at the moment and some very attractive sweaters have been made which we plan to send to "Knitting for Peace" in the next few weeks. We were approached by a member of New Mills U3A with a request that we knit some woollen potatoes for a project to help autistic children, so some of the members are now engaged in this.

Marlene Brookes

CURRENT AFFAIRS

At our meeting on 22nd June, the topics discussed were many and varied as usual. We kicked off with tax free saving which led to a sharing of members' frustration in their dealings with various tax offices.

Another subject for discussion was the record numbers of young people committing suicide and possible reasons. There has always been bullying but we concluded that widespread use of social media and mobile phones meant that young people could never escape abuse, even in the "safe" haven of their own homes.

Inevitably, the discussion turned to the referendum, taking place on the following day. Despite differing views, it was a civilised discussion and we concluded that people would vote according to their gut instinct which is what we felt at the start of the campaign, so was it really worth all those weeks of bad tempered electioneering?

In case you hadn't noticed, the Queen celebrated her 90th birthday so we discussed whether she and her husband had done a good job. The general consensus was that she had shown a great sense of duty and dedication during her reign, ably assisted by the Duke of Edinburgh.

The final question was "What 3 things in life make you happy". This could have been quite embarrassing if members had been made to disclose their secret vices. The two of us with dogs, could, without hesitation, declare: "My dog". Enough said! and that was the end of the discussion.

Marlene Brookes

DANCING IMPROVERS (BALLROOM, LATIN, AND SOME SEQUENCE).

Meeting 3 June



With Joan and Freda both having birthdays on the day, the dancers were in celebratory mood, as we enjoyed a sparkling drink in the break between our dances.

Walter Mason

GARDENING



Six of us spent a day at Arley, full of interest with so much to see and the famous double herbaceous borders already nearing their best. We needed a lunch break to refresh us before we finished our tour. Definitely a worthwhile trip.

Walter Mason

GERMAN

Our sessions continue to be lively and varied despite numbers being depleted in the last few weeks as many people have been on holiday. We are still finding varied material, human interest and crime stories, courtesy of a German lady in Bramhall who sends us her magazines. We've also been inspired by Shakespeare in the 400th anniversary of his death to study the lyrics of "Brush Up your Shakespeare" from "Kiss Me Kate" and "All the world's a stage" in translation which show us how good the German translations are and why his plays are probably more popular there than here.

Marlene Brookes

HISTORY

There were three topics and presenters at our recent meeting.

Pam Curley - William Joyce was the infamous Lord Haw-Haw who made black propaganda broadcasts for Nazi Germany during the second world war. He had been born in New York of Irish immigrant parents, but returned to Ireland in 1915. The family were strongly unionist, even though his father was an Irish catholic and after 1921 they moved to England fearing retribution. Joyce was well known for his anti-Semitic views, an able orator and fighter. He fraudulently obtained a British passport whilst living in England, and the possession of this passport meant that he could be tried as a British citizen and found guilty of treason. He was hanged at Wandsworth prison in 1945.

Sheila Harrop - Octavia Hill was born in 1838 into a family that believed in health and welfare reform. As a young woman she had been a copyist for John Ruskin, who was financially supportive in her desire to buy property in London which could be made into suitable housing for the deserving poor: at one time she had 15 housing schemes and 3,000 tenants. She also believed that people needed open spaces and campaigned to keep Wimbledon Common and Epping Forest for public use and she was the first person to coin the phrase 'green belt'. She became a founder of Housing Associations, but she is probably most well known for also being a founder member of the National Trust.

Marlene Brookes - The stories of 3 refugees: Ruth, a Jewish girl from Czechoslovakia, who spent the war in Britain and who returned to find her mother had survived 6 years in Theresienstadt and who also traced her old German teacher who as a Sudetendeutsche had also become a refugee; Ursula who, with her sister, escaped from Königsberg in 1945 leaving her 8 year old brother behind but who was reunited with him 50 years later when Germany was reunited; and Frau Schwarz, a member of the Nazi party who escaped with her baby to West Germany from Slovakia and who, with her husband, had to be denazified before they were allowed to work as teachers. (Of those only Ursula settled permanently in GB)

There will not be a meeting in July so the next meeting will be on August 24th when Michael Sparrow will be presenting James 1st and the Stuart Dynasty.

Pam Curley

OPERA APPRECIATION

10th / 24th May: We saw a very witty production of The Merry Widow. This was performed in German by the Zurich Opera and was beautifully sung and acted.

14th / 28th June: We watched a performance of Hamlet from Barcelona. This was sung in French, with English baritone Simon Keenlyside as Hamlet. The music, by Ambroise Thomas, was very enjoyable, but Shakespeare's words lost their impact by being translated into French and then back into English for the subtitles. 'Retire to a convent, Ophelia' does not have the same ring as 'Get thee to a nunnery'.

At our July meetings, we will lighten the mood with Le Comte Ory, a very funny comic opera by Rossini.

Meg Humphries

PHOTOGRAPHY

Brian Beck returned from his travels to claim 1st and 2nd in our "Stiles" competition, with Jeff Robinson 3rd.



The topic for our next meeting in July is 'Shop Windows'.
New members are welcome.

The Photography group will be exhibiting some of its work at the August meeting.

Walter Mason

QUIZ GROUP

The Quiz group is now well established. For our May meeting Meg created the quiz and we racked our brains to solve clues to local place names. The June meeting was hosted by Marlene and we had questions on Shakespeare plus some sequences and odd one outs. A particularly fiendish section was on etymology; here are some for you to try. Which language do the following words come from?

Algebra, flannel, pork, ski, coach, kiosk, shampoo. (The answers are on the next page)

Please contact me for details if you are interested in this group.

Diane Saxon

TRAVEL GROUP

EDINBURGH HOLIDAY

On our journey to Scotland our first stop was at Brockholes, a tranquil woodland and wetland nature reserve near to the M6 in Lancashire, where we were able to sit out in warm sunshine to enjoy our "elevenses".

Lunch was taken at Gretna Green Outlet Village, with time allowed for a browse round the many shops.

Following a "tip-off" from our leader Sue,

quite a few of our party reboarded the coach with new shoes - which were such bargains they were too good to miss!

Then over the border, through a little "Scotch mist", to our hotel where we were warmly welcomed with tea, coffee and delicious warm scones to sustain us until dinner. A very promising start to our holiday!

Eileen Fielding

Day 2

Our first full day in Scotland saw us visit the Palace of Holyrood house in the morning where we saw an exhibition of the Queen's wardrobe on display to celebrate her 90th birthday.

In the afternoon we visited the Scottish Parliament building with its controversial exterior and light airy interior. Our guide explained that the design of the building was that of a tree with the rooms being the leaves.

Janet Vockings



Day 3 Tuesday

Today we visited Rosslyn Chapel much visited by fans of Dan Brown. After a quick lunch we went to Edinburgh Castle the oldest building in Edinburgh where we explored the museums and some members took the guided tour. A quick look at the National War memorial high on the hill and then back to the coach through the cranes and scaffolding preparing for the Edinburgh Tatt00.

Eileen Lamb

Day 4 Wednesday. Today we are off to the Falkirk wheel, an amazing piece of engineering. We have a quick look at the Kelpies before going on to the Botanic gardens; lovely and peaceful .



After a quick evening meal it is off to the Playhouse to see Chicago, a really good show. An exhausting day.

Carol Harrison

Day 5 Thursday

Leaving our hotel we travelled to Stirling Castle one of Scotland's greatest castles. We were welcomed by our knowledgeable guide and costumed characters of the Royal Court. After lunch at the Castle we drove to Bannockburn Visitor Centre where we experienced the Battle of Bannockburn as spectators on the battlefield thanks to cutting edge 3D. We were also shown a reenactment of the battle to scale in the war Operations room. A well organised and enjoyable day.



Sandra Whittaker

Day 6 Friday 17th June 2016.

We left Edinburgh to come home. We called at the UNESCO site of New Lanark Visitor Centre. Had a ride in a 2 man gondola in the dark to see the mill experience through the eyes of a 10 years old mill girl. before free-time to walk through the working spinning room etc. where it is wool now not cotton that is processed. Our lunch bill included £50,000 that had been taken at the till! Luckily Eileen didn't have to pay it.

As we were leaving at 2.30pm we glimpsed an Indian bride arrive for her wedding so we enjoyed the sari's and kilts. We had a break at Tebay and arrived back on time at 8pm.

Barbara Aldred

Quiz answers from previous page

Algebra Arabic; Flannel Welsh; Pork French

Ski Norwegian; Coach Hungarian

Kiosk Turkish; Shampoo Hindi

WALKING

WALK - Tuesday June 14

Nine members set out from Rose Hill station along the Middlewood Way at 10am in very wet conditions. We took the Cown Edge Way to descend into a wooded valley and cross Torkington Brook. Out of the woods to follow Offerton signs and edge Stockport Golf Course to eventually emerge on to Offerton Road.

After walking through the Shearwater estate, where there was much evidence of flooding, we reached the busy Stockport Road, crossed Poise Brook and entered Holiday Lane. We re-crossed the brook and, after a short climb and descent, reached the River Goyt crossing via the Jim Fearnley bridge.

Turning right on to the Midshires Way we made our way to Chadkirk Chapel via Stockport Hydro and Vale Road to stop for a well-earned packed lunch. Crossing the river over the new bridge we turned left up Marple Dale to return to Rose Hill.

Total distance 5.5 miles although it seemed longer due to the slow going in parts, but everyone seemed to enjoy a walk which is literally on our own doorstep.

Steve Reynolds



WALK WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE



Merlyn led 16 (and 2 dogs) along a lovely stretch of canal from Bollington, before using field paths zigzagging towards Swanscoe Hall. A climb up Kerridge Road, and we ascended above Swanscoe Farm to reach our lunch stop on Kerridge Hill, slightly curtailed by a brief shower. Then followed a stroll on the ridge as far as "White Nancy", with extensive views all around, before we descended by steps to the former Redway Tavern, and through pleasant streets back to the park and the Middlewood Way Visitor Centre.

As well as the attractive scenery, there had been all sorts of interest on the way, with Merlyn giving fascinating accounts of former industrial, transport, and historic features, so the group obviously enjoyed the 6 mile walk.

Walter Mason

WALKING AWAY BREAK 2016

Sunday 26th June to Tuesday 28th June

The venue for the Walking Away event was once again the elegant Keswick Country Park Hotel. Only moments away from the market town of Keswick the hotel stands in four acres of tended garden and walkways and enjoys views of Lattrigg, and Skiddaw. Purpose built as a railway hotel in 1865 by the Cockermouth, Keswick and Penrith Railway Company.

This year's Walking Away holiday began at the Coppice Station car park on the A591 about two thirds the way up Thirlmere in the Lake District. Getting to the start point involved a very scenic car journey through Windermere, Ambleside and Grasmere.

The walk began in bright sunshine only to be replaced by cloud and later by light rain. Following a permissive footpath which was a little overgrown in parts our group of 28 walkers proceeded towards the slopes of Great How, a wooded hill at the head of Thirlmere for a picnic lunch. At this point and with the weather beginning to deteriorate a small group opted for a shortened and easier walk back to the car park whilst the rest continued on a path along the hillside to Stybeck Farm, Fisher Place and on to Piketoe Knott crossing Helvellyn Gill to return to the car park. An interesting if challenging walk of approximately 5.5 miles with some stony footpaths.



Once we had checked in to our hotel and after an excellent meal Walter provided the entertainment as only Walter can and we all had some fun including other guests who happened to be within earshot.

The forecast for Monday was quite good and it lived up to our expectations with lots of sunshine following on from a damp and dismal start. After a short bus journey from Keswick to Barrow Bay bus stop, close to the ancient and attractive Ashness Bridge where our walk began, our group for this longer and more challenging walk had slimmed down from the previous day from 28 to 20. From Ashness Bridge the route continued to the rocky ledge of Surprise View where normally there are splendid views of Borrowdale, Derwent Water and Keswick. Unfortunately the weather at this point decided to close in making the views much less impressive.

Continuing south roughly parallel with the lane we walked through woods on a wide stony path beside Watendlath Beck and on to the delightful hamlet of Watendlath, on the shores of Watendlath Tarn (noted as the setting for the home of Judith Paris in the novels of Sir Hugh Walpole)

After a picnic lunch at this scenic spot a small group of four opted to return to Keswick by a shorter and less challenging route. The remaining 16 walkers then continued on a stony path up Puddingstone Bank towards Rosthwaite. The rewards for this quite steep climb were the magnificent views ahead, of the white cottages of Rosthwaite, the lush green meadow in the valley below and the woods on the lower slopes of the fells. In the distance the head of Borrowdale appeared framed by majestic Lake District Peaks.



Having taken in these beautiful scenes whilst being careful on quite a steep and tricky descent, the route continued to Bowden Stone and on into Grange Village for welcome ice creams. From here the paths became

much easier as we made our way back towards Derwent Water and the landing stage at Mary Mount Hotel, just in time to catch the 5.00pm ferry back to Keswick. A challenging but really enjoyable walk.



After another excellent meal in the hotel Walter announced that after 11 years of leading the Walking Group he was handing over to David Burke. The Group expressed their appreciation for all that Walter had put into leading the group and a presentation was made to him. David Burke and Jeff Mortimer also received presentations for leading the walks.

The entertainment on Monday evening for football enthusiasts was Euro 2016 Football with England v Iceland. Unfortunately England after a really dismal performance lost 2-1. For others Freda Mason organised a quiz in the lounge.

The forecast for the Tuesday, the last morning of the Walking Away event was not good, even so, a small determined group set off for the final short walk to Dodd Wood and Basenthwaite, which they managed to complete before the rain set in.

A very enjoyable Walking Away event which next year will be in the Skipton area from 25 June to 27 June 2017.

Sam and Irene Chappell