

FROM THE CHAIR

It's high summer; a time to enjoy long evenings and lush gardens to say nothing of Wimbledon. We have our own special event at High Lane U3A; the strawberry tea for group leaders. It is our way of saying thank you for all their hard work during the past year. It's also a pleasant Friday afternoon. Just think ... if you volunteer to become a group leader you could join us next year!

Sheila Harrop

PICTURES FROM AN EXHIBITION

Yes, our own! The first High Lane U3A Art exhibition was a huge success. Congratulations and thanks to the group. More details on page 4.



GROUP NEWS

The Committee is pleased to report that two new groups are now in operation. Paul and Barbara are running a Kurling group and Linda has started a Darts group at a local hostelry. More details are in the reports section of the newsletter. We are always keen to extend what we have to offer members so if you have an idea for a group you would like to see started Doreen, our Group Coordinator, will be happy to discuss it with you.

SOCIAL EVENTS

I hope you have got your tickets for the Murder Mystery play evening on 2 August. If not, it's not too late; Andre will be selling tickets at the July meeting.

After the success of the previous evenings, the Committee decided that our Autumn event this year should again be a Musical evening. The date is Friday, 1 November so please put this in your diaries. Entertainment will be provided by a local group, the Mixtures, and the evening will start with a two-course meal. Tickets cost £15 and will be on sale at the September and October meetings.

We are always happy to receive new ideas for social events - and offers of help. Please let any member of the Committee know if you have an idea for a social event.

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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 2019 edition. Please can you get your contributions to the editor by 30 August?

MONTHLY MEETINGS

MAY MEETING

Steve and Elaine Pratt from the Garrick Theatre Stockport gave us an interesting and comprehensive presentation.

The Garrick was founded in 1901 but had no home. In 1904 the company obtained its own premises in Cobden Place, Wellington Street. It thus qualified to be the oldest small theatre in the country. The building has recently been refurbished. The emphasis now is on improving facilities for its thriving Youth Theatre.

Many productions and changes of venue followed. The theatre toured with productions by Shakespeare, Ibsen and Shaw. This tradition continues to this day. In recent years the Garrick has performed at the Minark Theatre in Cornwall and in Ireland, Germany and the USA.

Next time you are in Stockport look out for the blue plaque near the Library.

Sheila Harrop

JUNE MEETING

Writing crime fiction: Barbara Fagan Speake.

Barbara began her talk with a brief introduction to her background. She arrived in England from Connecticut America in 1972, settling here after marrying an Englishman. Her career (with the NHS) centred around research psychology, particularly concentrating on people with learning disabilities. During this time, she contributed to books on the subject.

Like many people she thought at some point 'do I have a fiction book in me?' After deliberating writing her memoirs for future generations of her family and researching crime writers she decided to 'have a go'. Her books are based on why a crime was committed rather than who did it, testament to her career in psychology.

She has written a series of books based around a Scottish detective named Annie McPhearson who finds herself on a sabbatical in Connecticut. Each story reflects something that has touched

Barbara's life in some way, (no she has not murdered anyone!) from conversations she has had to topics that we are all familiar with in our world today, from exploitation, relationships, traumas and bereavement.

The talk was very interesting giving a rare insight into the mind of a crime fiction author. Barbara is involved with a local writing group in Bramhall.

Lynn Arnold

CONCERT FOR ST ANN'S HOSPICE

Thank you to all those U3A members who supported the St Ann's Hospice Choir's summer concert at Stockport Town Hall. The audience enjoyed the playing, and joining in with, Nigel Ogden on the famous Wurlitzer organ. The choir had great fun learning new music and struggling to get our tongues round some of the words. I still have tunes running through my head.

All the money raised goes to the Hospice and we will soon be rehearsing for our Christmas concert on December 6th at the Bridgewater Hall. Please put the date in your diary to celebrate the start of festive season with us.

Carol Traffon

NEW PROJECT STARTING 2020: TRANSCRIBING TITHE DOCUMENTS

This new partnership project with the Lancashire Archives is open to all individual U3A members in the North West. It involves reading old ledgers written in copperplate and transcribing the information onto a spreadsheet. Training will be given.

For more information and contact details please see the Transcribing Tithe Ledgers flyer at <https://u3asites.org.uk/files/n/north-west/docs/nwu3aworkingwithlancashirearchives.pdf>

OUR U3A ACTIVITIES

10 July	Lasting power of attorney made simple: Jackie Lucas
2 August	Murder Mystery evening. Includes summer buffet £10
14 August	'Tornado' steam locomotive for the 21st century: Graham Nicholas
1 November	Music Evening. £15. Entertainment by The Mixtures plus curry/hotpot.

TRAVEL GROUP ACTIVITIES

Contact: Margaret McDermott or Ruth Smith

15-21 July	SOMERSET 5 nights at Swan Hotel Wells. Depart 9am from Alderdale Drive/ Hartington Road. Information at July meeting; please try to attend
7 August	MORAVIAN SETTLEMENT £5. Payment at July meeting. Meet at information board in Piccadilly station at 1:30 travel by metro. Tour at 2:30
25-29 August	IRELAND. Ireland's Ancient East - Wicklow Mountains Minibus to Airport £5. PAYMENT AND INFORMATION AT AUGUST MEETING; please try to attend. There may be a small amount needed for entrance fees. Depends on exchange rate for the Euro.
14 September	Day visit to PENRHYN CASTLE and CONWAY. National Trust members £13 Non-members £25. PAYMENT AT JULY MEETING
3-10 Oct 2019	MEDIEVAL GERMANY River Cruise on Rhine, Main and Mosel. Payment and information at September meeting; please try to attend.

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL U3A EVENTS

16-17 Aug	LITERARY AND FILM FESTIVAL Stoneyhurst College, Clitheroe. Details and booking at https://enterprises.stonyhurst.ac.uk/literature-filmfestival/
5 Sept	The Big Sing £15 The Friends' Meeting House, School Lane, Liverpool. Led by Stuart Overington, a conductor from the Halle, and members of the North West Regional Team. Register at https://u3asites.org.uk/files/n/north-west/docs/bigsingregistration.pdf by 20 August
18 Sept	'We the Curious' - Is there anybody out there? £22. Bristol. 3D Planetarium show plus hands-on workshops examining aspects of the search for new life forms. Booking via U3A website https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events
21 Sept	Family History conference. Buxton. £23. Palace Hotel, Buxton.
7 Oct	U3A Explores Science at the Ri 2019 £21.50. London Three presentations: science of sunlight, illusions, Beyond the Higgs Booking via U3A website https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events

GROUP REPORTS

ART

The Art Show was a great success. I think the world and his wife came to see us; we even had a mention in the Stockport Express. And we nearly sold out of cakes. Everybody was involved in doing something to make it a success. I think I delegated a task to everyone, so I didn't have that much to do. I thank everybody in the group for a brilliant day and all their efforts.

It was a very jolly day like a family party. We did sell a number of paintings although that really wasn't the idea. We were showing you all what took place on a Thursday afternoon in the Village Hall.

The winning painting by one of our Artists as judged by the visitors was by Val Dockerty whose pastel images of seascapes and landscapes are absolutely stunning. How does she do it? Well done Val. It was interesting to see that nearly everybody got a vote in the competition so well done to all. Roll on next year!

We are busting at the seams so at the moment there is no room for any new people to join but please get in touch and we will start a waiting list.

Brian Chadwick



BACKGAMMON

The Backgammon group continues to thrive and our meetings are convivial and lively. We usually have three or four boards in use, i.e. six to eight people. We meet in the Horseshoe pub in High Lane at 2pm on the first and third Wednesdays of every month and play till 4 or 5pm.

If you've never played Backgammon before no worries, we will teach you how. I liken it to a complicated game of Ludo (or Frustration), save that in this game instead of having four counters each and one die, each player has 15 counters and two dice. The interesting bit is that each player travels around the board in the opposite direction to his/her opponent, thus the players' counters cannot help but come into contact.

Should you fancy a game come along, I think it's unlikely that you will be disappointed. You can contact me via email address BackgammonLeader@highlaneu3a.org.uk

Ron Barrow

BALLROOM DANCING

Summer dancing was enhanced by a pleasant meal at Topkapi Palace, after Prosecco at Walter's to celebrate a dancer's big birthday. Otherwise our dancing is less frequent during the summer months.

Walter Mason



BRIDGE

Our three Bridge groups are well-supported and competitive but convivial sessions. Results from the Monday and Wednesday groups are posted on the website. Unfortunately, we didn't have enough interested players for the suggested Bridge holiday in September.

We are still gathering names for a Beginners' Bridge group but need a few more before that is viable. However, we have a good number of members wishing to attend the 'improvers' sessions and will be in touch with dates and planned topics; this is likely to be in the Autumn.

Diane Saxon

CARD MAKING

The Card Making Group continues to meet on the first Thursday of the month at St Thomas's Church Hall. The nine regular members are a friendly group with a range of crafting experience and skill, from beginner to more experienced. We have room for another couple of people if anyone wants to come and join us - you'd be made very welcome.

Here are some of our recent cards:-

This fresh, summery card was introduced to the group by our own very talented Elaine - isn't it lovely! We had such fun making the background from distress inks and using glaze to make the bubbles.



Card 2 - This card is ideal for the football lovers in our lives. Oh, and don't worry, some of us also made the card in blue!

Card 3 - Everyone made this card with a different colour background. The particular challenge with this quick and (relatively!) easy card was removing the sticky shadow image from the backing sheet without stretching it and applying it to the background paper without wrinkles. I think we all got there in the end!





Card 4 - This is one of Dot's beautiful cards, using dies, heat embossed flowers, and beautiful pink pearl card. Isn't it stunning?

Card 6 - Another inky card, this time using a stamped image as a stencil. Photos of our cards are often published on the national Craft U3A Facebook page, and this image was chosen as the photo of the week in June.



Please note that we will not be meeting in July as the Church Hall isn't available

Christine Fox
Dot Green

CINEMA

Cinema club has been busy and has seen several films at the Regent and the Plaza.

Red Joan

Again this was a film based (rather loosely) on real life events. Judi Dench was splendid as an elderly widow, whose early political sympathies catch up with her, when she is accused of spying during the cold war. It made you wonder "what would I have done in those circumstances"

The Aftermath

This was a fictional adaptation from the book of the same name. An intense love story set in the immediate aftermath of WW2. It was certainly gripping, right up to the final moments. Best not seen at 11.00 in the morning? The lunch in the splendid Plaza cafe was much appreciated.

The Keeper

This film was a biopic about the goalkeeper Bert Trautman. You didn't have to be a football fan to enjoy it. The detail of post-war Britain and austerity was well captured, as was the tragedy in his personal life.

Films shown at the Plaza do give us a welcome opportunity to talk through and share opinions. There will be more in the future.

Sheila Harrop

CURRENT AFFAIRS

May Meeting

Questions and topics discussed at this meeting included:

Was it fair to cancel 'Have I got news for you' because Heidi Allen was the only MP on the panel? Yes, it was felt to be the right decision at the time: obviously a misjudgement by the programme producers.

Is Archie a good choice of name for a royal baby? Most agreed that it was fine whilst one member thought it a bit too 'nicknamey'.

Concern about the demand for energy as streaming a two hour film uses as much energy as it takes to boil ten kettles. It was felt that in the global context this was trivial. However, it was still our responsibility to provide as much renewable energy as possible.

Can supermarkets be persuaded not to package goods in plastic? Some supermarkets are making changes; Morrisons have introduced a waxed paper bag that is easy to recycle. There was a general consensus that more items could be sold individually instead of always being pre-packaged.

Could Britain move to a standard four day week and if we did would it affect productivity? This may have been a good idea many years ago when we actually produced goods. However, there are many jobs where this would be extremely difficult, for example the medical profession, teaching and engineering. Consequently we did not see how this would be practical.

To improve the profile of schools, some head teachers are excluding pupils so that their results look better. This problem has resulted as a consequence of trying to rate the quality of schools, which in itself should have been a good thing, but by setting standards it encourages people to manipulate the information. We could not see how a system of measuring standards in school could work without adverse repercussions.

Do you think the stalemate in parliament means that there will be more coalitions? Proportional representation would seem to be a fairer system but this was rejected a few years ago. The voting system for MEPs does use a form of proportional representation which is more reflective of the way people have voted. We all felt that PR would probably help to move things forward.

RBS has launched a new type of credit card whereby you authorise a payment by pressing your thumb on the card! We were all very sceptical about this especially as it had been highlighted that as you get older your fingerprints fade as the ridges disappear!

Pam Curley

Wednesday 19th June

We managed to cover 10 questions, put forward by the group members, on a variety of topics.

The first was "Can the U3A be totally non-political?" We had very mixed views, which developed into a discussion about Brexit! But the general view was that there is a difference between discussing and promoting.

The next question was whether we were any clearer on who would be the next Prime Minister, after the TV debate, which again brought very mixed views. Another topic covered was whether we thought the British Government is truly representative, and is democracy on the decline? We all felt that members of the Government today are 'in it for themselves', and the media doesn't help who do we believe?

Then we moved on to a discussion on how our present politicians compare with those in the past, and it was agreed that generally they are no different, but there was less media coverage then. The next two questions also had a slightly political flavour and encouraged a variety of views.

They were followed by the proposal to make better-off pensioners pay for TV licences which divided the group equally and led to discussion around the winter fuel allowance, free local transport, and the Christmas bonus. Some admitted they didn't know how much the TV licence is!

"Care for the elderly" was another topic on which we all agreed - more should be done! People are living longer, and fewer live with families today. Maybe retired people on pensions should pay National Insurance, to help fund this?

Women's football was then discussed - all agreed the pros and cons, and also questioned why there were no mens' netball matches, but maybe basketball is close!

Finally, Jo Brand's 'acid' remark. We all thought this was a silly mistake made by a funny and intelligent woman, and for which she has apologised. The meeting ended on a humorous (political!!) note after we had had tea and delicious cakes - thanks to Margaret.

Mavis Dean

DARTS

The new darts group started on the 20th June at The Bulls Head in High Lane. Due to holidays we were slightly depleted, but nevertheless it was an enjoyable evening and everyone seemed to have a good time, even the people (most of us) who didn't always manage to hit the board!

The darts sessions will be every two weeks on a Thursday evening 7-9 pm at The Bulls Head. The next meeting is on the 18th July.

Linda Dale

DINING

June, the month with the longest days is when the Dining Group opts for an evening meal. Our venue of choice was The Hanging Gate at Chapel en le Frith, a very popular pub in the heart of the High Peak overlooking Combs reservoir. We had a hearty, home cooked three course meal at a very reasonable price and look forward to our next outing.

Dorothy Neillands
Dorothy Gerrard

GARDENING

Several garden visits have kept the group busy. May 1st at Deirdre's, we sipped birthday sparkling drinks and admired Deirdre's late tulips and her neighbour's terracing.

Three weeks later, in Gamesley, we were surprised how attractive a garden of mainly wild flowers could look.



Early June a few of us travelled to Cholmondley Castle, which was characteristically large with colour, vistas, lakes and water features in abundance – very impressive.



Later in June and nearer to home, were Fletcher Moss Park and Parsonage Gardens – smaller but equally impressive, with plenty to catch our interest and admire. In particular Parsonage Gardens had many unusual trees and plants, well maintained by friends of the garden. Dogwoods, japanese maples and alliums especially caught the eye.

Walter Mason



GERMAN

We are still going strong with 11 attending a recent meeting. The men were in the majority! In recent weeks there has been so much talking that we have not had time to do very much reading.

On Friday 21st, seven of us joined the Cinema Group to visit the Plaza to see "The Aftermath", a very moving film set in the chaos of Hamburg at the end of World War II but, those of us who had read the book by Rhidian Brooke felt that too much had been left out. Afterwards we enjoyed a snack in the café to round off an enjoyable day.

Marlene Brookes

HISTORY

May meeting

As a change from our usual meeting, this month we went on a visit to St Martin's Church in Marple Bridge, where we were given a guided tour by a member of the church who was also a local historian.

The church was designed by J.D. Sedding for Maria Anne Hudson who lived in nearby Brabyns Hall and was built 1870. The stained glass windows in the chancel are by the Morris company with designs by Edward Burne-Jones, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Ford Madox Brown and William Morris, all of whom were members of the Arts and Craft Movement in the late 19th century.

June meeting

In June the group watched a very interesting documentary on the Great Fire of London with particular attention as to how fire breaks were created by demolishing buildings in the path of the fire and also the disastrous effects it had on some of the local residents.

The next meeting will be on 24th July when Julia will be presenting a topic on St Odile. We will be having a break in August and the next meeting after that will be 25th September when Kath will be doing a presentation on Etta Lemon.

Pam Curley

KURLING



The new Kurling group started a couple of months ago. We meet after each monthly meeting in the small hall. There are about 15 members and we have had quite a good bit of fun learning the rules. If you are interested please let us know.

Paul and Barbara Kenneth

MUSIC APPRECIATION

In each of our monthly meetings, we listen to a selection of mostly classical music built around a common theme; the aim is to enjoy a couple of hours of pleasant listening, and perhaps introduce ourselves to music we are not familiar with.

At our April meeting we concentrated on how some solo instrumentalists have interpreted the work of different composers.

In May, we followed the development of chamber music, composed for small groups of musicians ("the music of friends"), from the eighteenth century to the 1930s. In June we looked at works for soloist and orchestra, tracing the evolution of the concerto over 200 years, starting with Corelli and ending with Prokofiev.

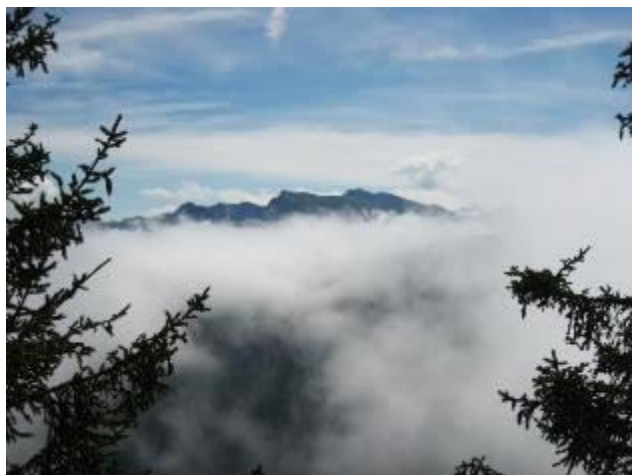
We usually meet on the third Tuesday in the month at 2 pm, in High Lane, but due to holidays the next meeting will be on the fourth Tuesday, ie 23rd July. If you are interested in expanding your knowledge of classical music, please contact me via the U3A Groups list.

Irene Merson

PHOTOGRAPHY

May saw the group visit Stockport on a photoshoot, searching for interesting pictures of Stockport old and new. It was a lovely sunny day which led to some interesting light and shade effects.

Afterwards we gathered in the Old Rectory to choose the best Mountain pictures for our monthly competition. The results were:- equal first: Diane - Hahnenkahn, Kitzbuhel, and Jeff - Loch Katrine, Scotland. Jeff's picture of Grisedale Tarn/St. Sunday Crag (not pictured) was voted in third place.



Our next meeting is in July when the competition topic is 'Lakes and Pools'. Why not come and join us?

Walter Mason

QUIZ

The Quiz group continues to find interesting and challenging ways of tormenting members' brains!

In May Marlene set us questions on a wide-ranging choice of topics with Only Connect walls and a map-based quiz in the refreshment break.

In June, Margaret challenged us with a variety of questions in various categories. With our refreshments we puzzled over acronyms and abbreviations and a set of 20 questions for which the numbers 1 to 20 were the answers. The difficult bit was working out which was which.

We meet on the 4th Thursday of each month. We currently have space for a few new members so if you fancy a morning challenging your knowledge (and memory) please get in touch.

Diane Saxon

READING

Our choice for May was PERSUASION by Jane Austen, her last completed novel which was enjoyed by all for its shrewd characterisation, irony and wit.

By contrast, our book for June was BLACK DIAMONDS by Catherine Bailey, a factual book dealing with the history of the Fitzwilliam family of Wentworth Hall and their employees, the miners of the nearby pits. We all felt we had learned a lot about the both the aristocracy and the conditions endured by the miners in the early part of the 20th century. A very informative read!

Our books for July and August are: A MAN CALLED OVE by Fredrik Backman and THE WYRD SISTERS by Terry Pratchett.

We meet at 2 pm on the first Monday in the month. If you would like to join us, please see me at the next monthly meeting.

Marlene Brookes

SHAKESPEARE

At the last meeting we completed our reading of "The Winter's Tale". Next up is one of Shakespeare's later collaborations, the history play "King Henry VIII" and after that "Much Ado about Nothing".

By early 2020 we will have completed the reading of the full canon of 37 plays from the First Folio and will have to decide what to do next! We started with "The Tempest" in 2012.

The dates of our next meetings are 22 July, 2September and 14 October

Steve Reynolds

TRAVEL

Browsholme Hall

Browsholme Hall is a privately owned Elizabethan House, near Clitheroe in the forest of Bowland, Lancs. In 1954 the building was awarded Grade 1 status by English Heritage. It has been in the Parker family since 1393. They had the responsibility of keeping the estate in pristine condition and seeing off trespassers and poachers. They were known as bow keepers. Over the years the family extended the house and the grounds, becoming bankrupt in the process. Many valuable assets had to be sold.



Due to the unseasonal June weather we were unable to enjoy the gardens and ground but we were well entertained by our guides. We were shown valuable pieces of furniture by Gillow, and others by Hepplewhite. Less conventional exhibits included enormous boots which were worn over standard riding boots and a fire guard made from bits of a Zeppelin. They never threw anything away!

Shelia Harrop



Gloucester & The Tall Ships

WOW. The wonders of Worcester were the first stop on our journey to Gloucester. Lunch by the river, occupied by a bevy of swans, was relaxing for those who had brought a picnic. Back in town there was the opportunity to visit the Guildhall, very impressive, with the Cathedral nearby.

Of great interest to many of the group was Greyfriars, a timbered medieval merchant's house with a walled garden. In the late 1940's this building was a ruin and due for demolition but was saved by a local family. It has been lovingly restored and is now in the ownership of the National Trust for all to enjoy. Afternoon tea in the delightful cottage garden was the 'icing on the cake' before we continued to our Gloucester hotel.

Judith Ridgway.



The day of the Tall Ships.

Arriving at the National Waterways Museum at Gloucester Docks folk had time to explore the Museum before boarding Queen Boudicia for a 45 minute cruise down the Gloucester/Sharpness canal. About to move from the mooring the road bridge lifted as the pilot sailboat, a training sail ship (with guns ablaze) plus the pirate ship sailed into the dock. We were able to board some of the seven ships. The skipper of our cruise boat gave a humorous and interesting commentary pointing out various warehouses, a timber yard where timber was soaked in the canal to stop splitting. Also two live gnomes fishing on the canal bank! Three brave men with jet engines strapped to their arms jetted off swooping over the ships in the dock area.

Susan Clark

Outside Gloucester Cathedral we sat in the sunshine awaiting our guides. Circa 679 Prince Ostic of Mercia founded St Peter's Abbey on this site. The Norman style stone building seen today dates from 1089; Christians have worshipped there for over 900 years. Henry III was crowned in 1216 here. England's only coronation outside Westminster Abbey since 1066. Edward II, the murdered king, is buried here and these royal connections saved the building from destruction by Henry III, who turned it into a cathedral.

The St Andrews Chapel is beautifully decorated with frescoes by Thomas Parry whose family are connected to the music of 'Jerusalem'. One can also see an internal flying buttress at the entrance to this chapel, as the original Abbey was built on marshland which when drained caused the walls to lean. The great east window behind the alter is magnificent and the size of a tennis court. It is the largest of its age in Europe and the glass is over 650 years old. Much of the other glass in the cathedral is Victorian apart from two chapels with vibrant coloured modern designed glass. Up to date history is the use of the cloisters for several Harry Potter scenes; they also took your breath away.

Ron Holt

The visit to Chavenage was for many of us the high spot of the holiday. An Elizabethan mansion, tucked away deep in the quiet countryside, it has been lovingly cared for by the Lowsley-Williams family since 1891. The best guest bedroom featured a Mortlake tapestry and a bed where Cromwell slept, as well as Charles 1st death warrant signed by local man Judge Bradshaw. There were many other interesting rooms with fine furniture and pictures and artefacts dating back to the Cromwellian period. Damage was caused during WW2 by the American military who were billeted at Chavenage. In fact they planned the landing on Omaha beach in the D Day landings from here. So great was the security that family members and dogs were banished to the servants' quarters.



In recent years film and T V companies have discovered Chavenage. It has been used for "Poldark" and many more. The latest production to feature the house is Jane Austen's "Emma". Our tours were led by family members, who kept us well entertained. Their anecdotes about the chaos surrounding filming were particularly hilarious. We rounded off our visit with a superb lunch prepared and served by the family; we felt like honoured guests! A most memorable morning.

Sheila Harrop

En-route homeward bound was a lunch stop at Pershore, a Georgian town with a square called Broad Street and a very old pub. As their annual carnival was held on Bank Holiday Monday we were able to look at the Abbey inside and out as well as wander over Abbey fields where stalls were placed ready for the numerous folk coming to see the carnival floats. Shrek and his wife were represented! The locals certainly knew how to enjoy themselves as well as collecting money for charities.

Ruth Smith



WALKING**Tuesday 7th May 2019: Bollington**

Sam and Irene Chappell led a small group of nine walkers on a 5.5 mile walk from Bollington on a cloudy but pleasant day slightly warmer than the weather we had over the May Bank holiday. The walk started from the car park in the centre of Bollington and went along the canal towards Macclesfield passing some interesting canal side features and gardens.



Our route took us away from the canal at Hurdsfield passing Jenny's farm and on to Higher Swanscoe Farm and Kerridge Road for a short distance before passing the entrance to Swanscoe Hall. The next section on field paths passed a number of farms and then on to Windmill Lane. There were two major items of interest to see along the Windmill Lane –Victoria Bridge and Clayton's tower. Victoria Bridge crossed the inclined plane that marked the top of the 'Rally Road'. There were two tracks up the incline where trucks were hauled up empty and lowered down loaded with stone. A steam powered winding drum at the top provided the motive effort via cables. It is thought that there were tracks along some parts of the lane in order to bring stone from other quarries. Clayton's Tower, beside Windmill Lane, appears to have been a chimney top for a furnace lower down the hill, although inspection in 2009 showed no sign of soot. Neither is there a shaft beneath the tower so that it never served as a ventilation shaft for local coal mines. From here the walk continued behind the cottages, through the gardens for our lunch stop with a view and across and into Kerridge. Passing through the village we then returned to Bollington and the car park.

Sam and Irene Chappell

Wednesday 29th May 2019: Derbyshire Dales

In late May, this 7 dales walk (Litton,Tansley, Cressbrook, Ravensdale, Water-cum-Jolly, Millers, and Tideswell Dales) was a visual delight. Wild flowers were in abundance - early purple orchids, cowslips, wild garlic, bluebells, rock roses, cuckoo flowers, stitchworts - and there was local interest from lambs being fed, from fly fishing, and from the ever varying scenery. The thirteen walkers did have to tread carefully at times in the limestone paths of Tansley and Cressbrook Dales, but elsewhere the paths were flat and easy, and the threatened rain never materialised. By common consent the walk was diverted along Water-cum-Jolly Dale, rather than the Monsal Trail tunnels.



The 6 mile walk was particularly poignant for Ron Barrow, who was born in the cottage block which used to stand on what is now the Tideswell Dale car park. It was also good to welcome back our group leader David after a short period of absence.

Walter Mason

Tuesday 11th June 2019: Alderley Edge

Despite a not very good weather forecast 10 brave people turned out for the walk round Alderley Edge. The walk started from the National Trust car park at the Wizard Alderley Edge.

In the rain we made our way up through the woods which gave us some shelter, eventually climbing slightly to pass the remains of the old copper mine. From here we carried on round to the Edge and a mud-stone rocky outcrop where we were exposed to the wind and rain, but still had reasonably good views. The path then continued back through the shelter of the wood and past the site of the Armada Beacon before doubling back on itself and passing the Wizard's Well.

We followed the path past the backs of large houses and made our way down Macclesfield road before taking another path to the left.

After a short coffee break under the shelter of a large tree we continued to Artists Lane and eventually crossing various fields to reach the cobbled track of Bradford Lane. The route continued over the fields on good paths in relatively dry conditions to cross Finlow wood and a short distance brought us past a very large mansion house back to the starting point. A very good 5 mile walk, despite the weather.

Jeff Robinson