

FROM THE CHAIR

Wednesday meetings are running smoothly with the help of volunteers who put out chairs and serve refreshments; also the use of the Village Hall PA system. We now have 428 members which is an increase in the numbers at this time last year. Approximately 25% of the members attend the monthly meetings. I would like to congratulate Walter Mason on his choice of speakers. There has been a wide variety of topics all of which have proved to be interesting and stimulating including having surgical instruments and a pig's heart passed round at the last meeting.

Thirty members of the Holidays Group visited Dresden last May; there are some excellent photographs taken by Gerard Wilson on our website.

A member of Wanstead and Woodford U3A in Essex has been looking at newsletters on the internet and has said that ours is the best he has seen so far and has congratulated us on the amount of content and its easy readability. Thanks to all those who contribute and to our Editor, Diane Saxon, for putting it all together.

Margaret McDermott

REQUEST FROM HISTORY GROUP

The History Group invites members who have a specific interest in a historical topic to give a presentation/talk for the group. If you are interested in doing this please contact Pam Curley.

FROM THE EDITOR

Once again thanks to the group leaders for sending me their events, reports and photos in good time for the newsletter. In this edition we have a quiz designed by the Shakespeare group – my thanks to the group and to Steve Reynolds for this. We are offering a small prize for this quiz. See page 3 for how to enter.

Items for the newsletter from members are always welcome. If you have any suggestions for content or articles of interest to U3A members please contact me at newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk

Some members who read the newsletter online have found the column layout difficult to read so from this edition, the newsletter is also available in a format without columns.

The next edition of the newsletter will be the September edition. Please can you get your contributions to me by Friday 30 August?

IN THIS ISSUE:

Monthly meetings
Stockport Bowling Greens
Diaries and Calendar
Quiz
Trades people
National Trust
60s cinema
Stockport picture gallery
IT corner
Forthcoming events

Group reports

Art
Ballet Appreciation
Canasta
Churches and Pubs
Craft and Needlework
Crown Green Bowling
Discussion

Gardening
German
History
Holidays and Visits
Sequence dancing
Shakespeare
Singing
Walking

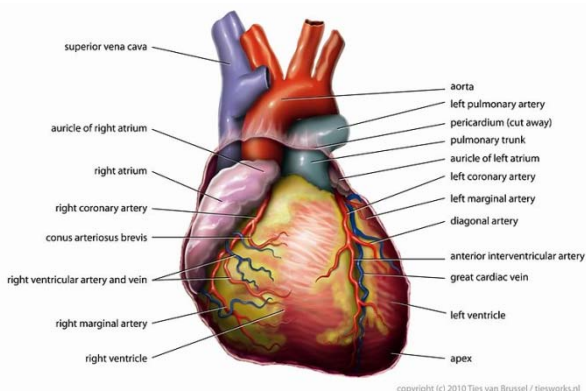
MONTHLY MEETINGS

MAY MEETING

At the May meeting members enjoyed an interesting talk from Joy Bratherton whose title was taken from a line of poetry about the First World War. She spoke of her interest in war memorials and her quest to find out the stories of twelve soldiers from the 1914-1918 war who did not return to their Cheshire village.

JUNE MEETING

At the June meeting we had an informative and inspiring talk from Professor Bernard Loveday about progress in the treatment of cardiac disease. Professor Loveday has carried out research into many aspects of cardiovascular disease including valve replacement and open heart surgery. His talk gave an encouraging picture of the developments in cardiac treatment. He opened by discussing the early days when the only tool that doctors had was a stethoscope and a very crude ECG machine. He took us through a number of developments including modern diagnostic techniques, bypass machines, stents, pacemakers and replacement valves. He brought along a number of items for us to look at including a pig's heart which is used to provide replacement valves for humans.



Did you know that the heart pumps 5 to 7 litres of blood every minute, the heart stops for 1/3 second every second to take in oxygen from the lungs and blood takes 3 minutes to complete its circuit of the body.

AUGUST MEETING

Looking ahead – as you know, the August meeting is a debate on the motion that Britain should leave the European Community. We have speakers for and against the motion but would ask members to come prepared with questions from the floor of the house. The debate will be chaired by Steve Reynolds.

GOOD NEWS – BOWLING GREENS

The planned closure of Stockport bowling greens is not to go ahead following widespread condemnation from residents. The consultation mentioned in the last newsletter attracted thousands of replies. The Manchester Evening News reported that this is a 'victory for people power'. The article goes on to say "Speaking at Tuesday's executive meeting, councillor Stuart Bodsworth announced he would be recommending town hall bosses scrap plans to close greens at Brinnington, Cale Green, Heaton Moor, Heaton Norris, Houldsworth, St Thomas and South Reddish parks."

MEN 12 June 2012

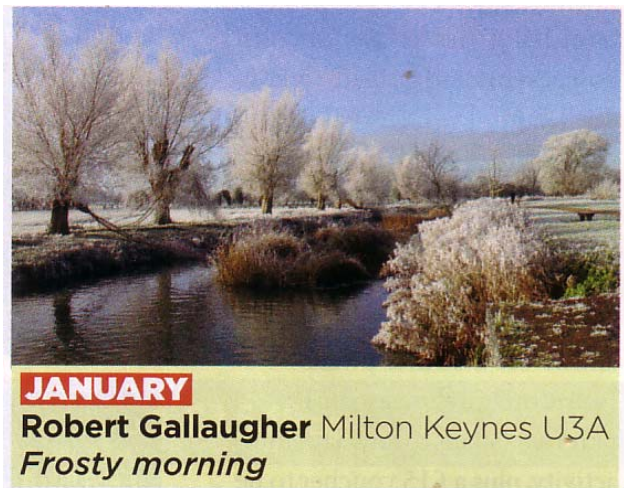
<http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/plans-close-stockport-bowling-greens-4306132>

U3A DIARIES

The Third Age Trust is taking orders for 2014 U3A Diaries. This year the colour of the cover is burgundy. The price remains the same at £2.00 including postage. Order forms will be available at the monthly meeting.

U3A CALENDAR

The photography competition has now closed and the judges have selected 12 photographs for the 2014 calendar. The twelve winning photos are reproduced in the Summer 2013 Magazine. The calendar will be available from the U3A National Office from mid-July. The calendar is A3 size and costs £4.00 including postage and packing. Cheques should be made payable to The Third Age Trust.



QUIZ: BRUSH UP YOUR SHAKESPEARE

Name the Play

- 1 Amusing mistakes
- 2 Everything is sound that finishes hale and hearty
- 3 Agent of lemon went over (anag.)
- 4 Royalty maybe, but not quite a king
- 5 Two of a kind
- 6 Not a nightmare at this time of year
- 7 A prisoner in Pontefract Castle
- 8 nalocrsuio (anag.)
- 9 Tipsy women in a Royal borough
- 10 Trojan lovers

Who is the Character?

- 11 The noblest Roman of them all
- 12 Stabbed behind a curtain
- 13 Prospero's daughter
- 14 Sour natured dog
- 15 Heiress of Belmont who disguises herself as a lawyer
- 16 Othello's nemesis
- 17 She has the longest female part in Shakespeare
- 18 The man who tamed Kate
- 19 Hostess of The Boar's Head
- 20 He returns after death to haunt Macbeth

Who said it and from which Play?

- 21 Comparisons are odorous
- 22 Some are born great, some achieve greatness, some have greatness thrust upon them
- 23 All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players
- 24 I have done a thousand dreadful things as willingly as some would kill a fly
- 25 Uneasy lies a head that wears a crown
- 26 Tarry a little, there is something else
- 27 Friends, Romans, Countrymen, lend me your ears
- 28 O, beware, my lord of jealousy. It is the green-eyed monster which doth mock the meat it feeds on.
- 29 Ay, there's the rub
- 30 Now is the winter of our discontent made glorious summer by this sun of York

Answers please to the Editor or Steve Reynolds by 31 July. There will be a small prize for the best score from a member who is not in the Shakespeare reading group. In the event of a tie

the winner will be drawn from all correct entries. The Judges' decision will be final.

RECOMMENDED TRADES PEOPLE

This is the up to date list. We welcome suggestions from members. Please give your suggestions to a committee member so we can add them to the list.

This list is unavailable on the web version, as U3A Groups do not advertise any business or trade outside their own members.

Webmaster

LOCAL NATIONAL TRUST

Dunham Massey has opened a new rose garden this summer with 1,600 roses of 160 varieties. The garden also boasts over 2,500 herbaceous plants and lavender amongst the roses.

Hare Hill garden has a newly planted border of white plants and flowers in the walled garden. There are white lilies, dahlias, cosmos, sweet peas and white flowering shrubs.

Nether Alderley Mill has reopened after the conservation programme. It is open afternoons on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Guided tours only limited to 14.

Alderley Edge Guided walks - Sundays in July and August. Not every Sunday so you will need to check the dates. Meet in NT car park.

DID YOU GO TO THE CINEMA IN THE 60S?

University College London is conducting a major research project which aims to shed light on the



social and cultural history of cinema. To many writers, sixties films summed up the changes transforming British society, but the films themselves reveal nothing about how they were received and remembered. We want to find out how cinema-goers remember the films they saw.

We are asking anyone who went to the cinema in 1960s Britain to share their memories with us by completing a short questionnaire. The questionnaire can be completed online at <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/cinemamemories> or it can be printed and sent freepost. You can also request a copy of the questionnaire to be sent to you by post. To do this you should contact UCL on 020 7679 7960 or email cinemamemories@ucl.ac.uk. Completed questionnaires should be sent to: FREEPOST UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON (Department of History, 1960s Cinema-going)

Continuing the cinema theme do you remember this building?

This photo is of the ABC Ritz cinema in Stockport and was taken in 1960. In the early twentieth century Stockport had many cinemas; there was even one on Commercial Road in Hazel Grove, the Picture Palace.

This image and many more are available in the Photo Gallery in the Stockport Image Archive. The archive contains around 39,000 pictures of the borough dating back to the late 1800s.

Pictures range from public houses to churches, and festivals to transport and give insight into life in Stockport from the late 1800s right up to the present day. The archive has a detailed and extensive search facility which allows you to narrow down the list of results to specific areas and themes. You can find the archive at <http://www.stockport.gov.uk/services/leisureculture/libraries/libraryonline/stockportimagearchive>

IT CORNER**Tips for safe computing**

- ✓ Ignore email that you don't recognize or even that looks dodgy. I delete them without opening. Never click on links or open attachments in emails you don't recognize or give any personal details.
- ✓ There are frequent updates to your software that tackle reported security issues. Set up your computer so that these updates are applied automatically for you.
- ✓ Keep your virus software up to date – this can be set to update automatically as well
- ✓ Back up your files on a regular basis using some kind of removable media eg CD, DVD or an external hard drive. Make sure you also back up your email files.
- ✓ Choose strong passwords – a strong password would include capital letters, numbers and other characters
- ✓ Don't use the default password on your broadband router

WHAT IS THE CLOUD?

You've probably heard of the cloud - but what is it? Basically the Cloud is the Internet – a network of computers. If you use email online then you have used the Cloud. If you use Google apps eg docs, drive, mail etc you are using the cloud.



Why is it useful? – because you can store information on the cloud that is then available to you from anywhere you happen to be – this could be documents, pictures, music or anything you wish. You might access via another computer or a tablet or even a smartphone. And you can then share your documents, pictures, music etc with anyone you choose.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Now until 6 October	Chagall: Modern Master. Tate Gallery, Liverpool
Now until 6 December	Channel Crossings: English & French Impressionism and Post-impressionism. Manchester Art Gallery
3 July	Churches and Pubs Group visit to St Margaret's (Marble Church) Bodelwyddan. £5 deposit plus £2 for guide and tour
5-21 July	Buxton Festival. Opera, music and literature.
8 July	North West Region of U3As. Confidence in Committee - seminar aimed both at members who are confident about sharing their experiences with others and members who perhaps are interested in taking on an officer post but need some ideas or confidence building. Manchester. Free to NW U3A members.
10 July	Monthly meeting. The True Story of the Mutiny on the Bounty. Talk by Eric Roth.
10 July	The Mikado. Dunham Massey
13-14 July	Great British food Festival. Capesthorpe hall. Siddington.
14 July	Andre Rieu. 2013 Maastricht Concert. Stockport Plaza
15 July	Shakespeare Group: King John
18 July	Craft and Needlework group
21 July	NT Live. The Audience. Stockport Plaza
22-24 July	Swan Lake Giselle Don Quixote. Sofia National Ballet. Manchester Palace Theatre
25-28 July	RHS Flower Show. Tatton Park
27 July	NT Live. Macbeth. Stockport Plaza
27 July-17 August	Gilbert and Sullivan Festival. Buxton Opera House.
29 July	Globe theatre production of The Taming of the Shrew. Cineworld Stockport and Parrswood

11 August	Glyndebourne. Don Pasquale. Stockport Plaza
13 August	Choir performing at Dystlegh Grange Disley
14 August	Horticultural Show – Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A Open Gardening Group
14 August	Monthly meeting. Debate: Britain should leave the European Union
21 August	Choir performing at All Saint's Marple.
21 August	History Group meeting. Paradise Lost: Smyrna
2-6 September	Holiday and visits group trip to Northumberland
11 September	Monthly meeting. Laugh Lines. Talk by Christine Taylor.
26 September	NT Live. Othello. Stockport Plaza
26 September – 12 October	Educating Rita at the Lowry
9 October	Monthly meeting. How I made my first million – and spent it. Talk by Neil Cliffe.
18-21 October	London visit Includes visits to Windsor Castle, Kew Gardens and Palace and Royal Kitchens, evening performance of War Horse at the New London Theatre, guided sightseeing coach tour of London and Blenheim Palace. Balance to be paid at August meeting.
26 October	NT Live. Othello. Stockport Plaza
19 November	Liverpool Day visit by coach. Cost £28. Includes tour of St. George's Hall, lunch at the Adelphi Hotel and a cruise on the Mersey Ferry. Deposit £19 at August meeting.

GROUP REPORTS

ART GROUP

Meetings in June were well attended with over 20 members enjoying discussions with visiting artists.

Brian Chadwick

BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 1 & 2

April Meeting: Programme 1

Both groups enjoyed the Royal Ballet's performance of "Manon". This is a beautiful ballet choreographed by Kenneth Macmillan featuring Tamara Rojo as Manon and Carlos Acosta as Des Grieux. All the dancing was superb especially the two main characters. This ballet has all the emotions of Love, Happiness and Tragedy; unfortunately there is no happy ending. "Manon" is based on the novel by Abbe Prevost and music by Massenet. Although this ballet brought a little tear to our eyes, everyone enjoyed this programme.



May Meeting:

Programme 1

We enjoyed a brilliant documentary about the reconstruction of the Bolshoi Theatre in 2009. We were all fascinated with the work that was carried out, especially the gold leaf work and there were snippets of ballet and opera to enjoy throughout the documentary. You can find out more about this on at <http://www.bolshoi.ru/en/about/reconstruction/> where there are lots of excellent photographs.

Programme 2

For the last 30 minutes a mixed bag of Ballet Favourites was an enjoyable change from the Documentary:

- La Fille Mal Gardee - Clog Dance & Maypole Dance-Royal Ballet Company
- The Nutcracker - Variations & Grand Pas Deux. Royal Ballet Company
- Giselle -The Mad Scene & Myrtha & the Willis. The Kirov
- Sleepin g Beauty –The Garland Waltz & Rose Adagio. The Kirov

Sheila Hall

BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 3 & 4

24th April/1st May: Continuing the theme 'Dance in America', we saw a documentary featuring four young male stars of the American Ballet Theatre. The film gave details of their backgrounds and showed them working with choreographer Mark Morris to produce a new short ballet. This was followed by some short pieces danced by stars of the American Ballet Theatre. Also included was En Sol – a lighthearted piece by Jerome Robbins, danced by the Paris Opera Ballet.

29th May/5th June: We saw the American Ballet Theatre's production of Le Corsaire, featuring three of the male stars introduced in the previous programme.

26th June/3rd July: The next two sessions will feature the Royal Ballet and the work of choreographer Kenneth Macmillan.

Meg Humphries

CHURCHES AND PUBS GROUP

St John the Baptist Ault Hucknall 1 May

30 members travelled through Chesterfield to Ault Hucknall. The Saxon Church is open every Saturday from 1.00pm to 5.00pm and serves refreshments. The Church is a rectangular sandstone building; on entering one is met with quite a plain Church decorated by the beautiful embroidered hassocks depicting various groups and anniversaries.



We were met by the Church warden Keith Jones who introduced us to David Black a local Archaeologist Architect who gave a very informative talk on the history of the Church.

There was evidence that a Church had existed on this wooded hillside for over 1,000 years. The ancient parts were the beautiful narrow arch between the Chancel and the Sanctuary. The Norman Chancel Arch which depicted Creation, the Flood, Noah and his wife and was presumed to be used as an aid in preaching and teaching.

In the North Aisle we saw an example of the "loop window" which could be dated after the Norman Conquest. In the South Aisle known as the Cavendish Chapel dated about 15thC we viewed the Savage window dated 1527 which is above the tomb of Ann, Countess of Devonshire. Also in the Cavendish Chapel was a black marble slab on the floor which was dedicated to Thomas Hobbs died 1678 considered to be one of England's great philosophers. The blocked West door caused some interest, and when we were invited to view this from outside, the tympanum and lintel could be seen to portray the combat of St George and the dragon.

After our very informative talk we retired to the Plug and Feathers at Glapwell for a lovely meal in recently refurbished surroundings. Thanks to Paul Kenneth for this interesting visit.

Muriel Gray

St Leonard's church Downham Pendle Lancashire 5 June

We had a perfect sunny day at last for our drive through the Rossendale valley towards Whalley Abbey, Clitheroe and on to the peaceful hamlet of Downham nestling at the foot of the famous Pendle hill. We were welcomed to the church and given a most interesting talk about the history of the building by the vicar and two churchwardens, one of whom was Sir Ralph Assheton, no less, whose family have held the lordship of the manor since 1558.



The present stone church was rebuilt in 1910 during which time traces of Saxon foundations were uncovered, suggesting that a church had existed on this site for 1000 years or more. The tower is 15th century and holds five bells, dedicated to Saint Augustine, Margaret, Katharine, Leonard and Paul. Downham was one of the Cistercian Whalley Abbey parochial chapelries. Over the centuries, people from the outlying villages of Twiston, Sawley, Slaidburn, Whitewell and Newchurch worshipped, and to quote a modern idiom, were "hatched, matched and dispatched" at Saint Leonard's, the patron saint of prisoners and country folk.

The Assheton family members have been the major benefactors throughout the centuries, providing many of the artefacts we see today, including the bells, the stained glass windows, the cross, and the 17th century family vault with its symbolic coat of arms of the Lords Assheton, a noble family with connections to the Middleton, Ashton under Lyne and Great Lever.

After the illuminating talk and tour of the building we made our way out of the lovely church door into the sunshine and looked across to Pendle hill high above the village – a view regarded by Queen Mary in a visit in 1938 as "the most beautiful view from a the church porch in the land".

After the culture came the excellent lunch at the comfortable Pendle Arms, Barley, a perfect country pub in an idyllic setting by a little picnic park and stream complete with families and paddling children. A vote of thanks to Paul for a memorable day in the hidden Lancashire countryside!

Barbara Wynne

CANASTA GROUP



The Canasta group meets at the Royal Oak in High Lane every Tuesday evening from 7 pm to 9 pm. The Group is currently full but members who would like to join may be able to be accommodated; however you need to be able to play as no teaching is available at the moment. Please contact me.

Diane Holker

CRAFT & NEEDLEWORK GROUP

On 30th May eight of us enjoyed a very good meal at The Royal Oak in Strines. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 18th July when we will discuss projects for the coming months.

Marlene Brooks



CROWN GREEN BOWLING GROUP



The photograph shows some of our members who enjoyed a really good day of crown green bowling at Copperfields bowling club near Prestatyn. We all had a really enjoyable day out and finished the day with a friendly competition; the winning lady was Dot Bushell and the winning man was Phil Robinson.

We left Hazel Grove about 9.15 a.m. Spending a full day bowling, except for a brief stop for a picnic lunch, Fortunately the rain kept away, and we all benefited from spending time catching the sea breeze. This naturally gave us all a keen appetite for our evening meal.

Many thanks to Len Wilson for inviting us to his 'other bowling venue' and the Copperfields Bowling Club for allowing us to use their facilities.

Margaret Evans

DISCUSSION GROUP

On the 29th May the topic for discussion introduced by Jim Summers was "Foreign Aid given by Britain". This amounts to 0.7 of one per cent of GDP. The stated motive for giving aid to certain countries is to

aid the poor in the hope that it will relieve poverty and help the Governments of the receiving nations to establish their own economies.

It seems that the reality for some of the recipient nations is far removed from this. The poor seem to be still poor, the economies are stagnant whilst people at the top have an excellent standard of living. It is not obvious how the aid leaves the donor nations, i.e. in what form, whether goods, food, machinery, hard cash or credit. It certainly isn't in the form of new cars, expensive clothes, private jets etc. but somehow it seems to reach the corrupt officials in this form. It also seems that we give aid to countries such as India whose Government referred to Britain's donation as "peanuts", but this does not stop them from accepting it. India is also spending billions on a space program! Also India was allocated £388m in 2011 but £70m of this went missing before it got to the right Government Department. There are many validated reports of Aid funds going astray, some being used for political purposes, some to enhance the reputation of some local Bigwig, some simply disappearing. The Department for International Development seems to relinquish control over it after it has been given to the recipients so we cannot say what happens to it in most cases.

This is not to say that all Foreign Aid goes into the wrong hands but it is a cause for concern that successive British Governments have been aware that some of it does and has been doing so for many years. But it is still being doled out with apparently no control over where it goes.

One observer remarked that the Foreign Aid business is so large that it is self sustaining and it is in its own interest not to ask too many questions. However, as is usually the case, there is a dearth of reliable information available to us and our group could only discuss the situation as we know it. We can and do criticise the DFID for not keeping tighter control over the Aid funds which after all are provided by the British tax payer. It was also mentioned by some members that in these times of austerity should we be giving such a large sum to Foreign Aid? And why is the Government cutting Allowances and Benefits at home whilst sustaining a high level of Foreign Aid? What is that all about?

Jim McDermott

GARDENING GROUP

14TH MAY 2013

A group of five members braved the rain to visit Dunge Gardens in Kettleshulme, but after a pleasant sandwich lunch in their conservatory, the rain ceased and enabled a pleasant stroll round. Plenty of rhododendrons were in bloom, accompanied by late spring flowers, so it made a worthwhile visit.



19TH JUNE 2013

The hottest day of the year gave eight members of the gardening group a rest from visits, and a chance to relax with a glass of wine, and strawberries and cream, in hot sunshine. All this in Jackie's very pleasant garden. We did have some serious discussion on gardening problems as well, to justify our later relaxation, but thanks to Jackie it was a lovely friendly afternoon.



Walter Mason

MARPLE BRIDGE AND MELLOR U3A OPEN GARDENING GROUP

Meetings are held at Marple Methodist Church, Church Lane, Marple on the second Wednesday of every month (except on excursion days). Meetings start at 9.45 with coffee; the meeting commences at 10.00 a.m. The cost is £1.50 including coffee.

Talks are on everything from violets to vegetables, pansies to potatoes. There are practical demonstrations and occasional outings to gardens both great and small.

Forthcoming meetings and visits

11 July	"Herbs are life enhancing" – an illustrated talk by Jan Greenland of the Herb Society.
14 August	Horticultural Show – Members of the Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A Open Gardening Group

GERMAN GROUP

We have continued to meet most Fridays with smaller groups than usual due to holidays. In the week beginning 17th June some of our friends from the Forchheim Exchange were in Stockport and on the 18th I received a visit from Rosemarie Schmidt, her husband and sister. On 19th, three of the group with spouses had a meal out with Hans-Guenter and his wife at The Dog and Partridge which was very enjoyable. We will continue to meet until the end of July apart from 12th July when I shall be attending a school reunion.

Marlene Brooks

HERITAGE GROUP

GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY 1940'S EVENT

On 9 June 27 High Lane U3A members boarded a steam train at Loughborough station (Leicester), travelling most of the day by steam engine, calling at Le Birstall in occupied France (Leicester North) to see the attack on the German garrison. Travelling back down the line to Rothley another battle took place; then onto Quorn and Woodhouse station where military and vintage vehicles were viewed. There was also a display of fire engines, a 1940's fashion show and live entertainment. We finished the weekend with a memorial fly past poppy drop by a tiger moth vintage aeroplane.

Below are a few comments from folk who came on this visit:

*Fabulous day out - enjoyed it all. Two air displays, George Formby and 'steam' - what could be better? Good fun from start to finish.
Great day - fantastic atmosphere with lots to enjoy. Fascinating to see the civilian clothes, just like my parents wore. Good weather brilliant day.*

Ruth Smith

HISTORY GROUP

A Brief History of the Class System. 15 May

There were two major historical events which changed the class system. The first was the Black Death, which wiped out nearly half of the population of Britain. The dramatic fall in the workforce allowed the peasants, and women, to assert themselves. The next major impact on the class system was the Industrial Revolution. As the factory system spread, the gentry, who had supplied the initial capital, were replaced by professional managers who became the middle classes. Britain now had an Upper class, a Middle class and a Working class. There have been several attempts to classify the British social structure, none of which seem to work very well, as those in the History Group can testify when they tried to use the new BBC's British Class Calculator. This topic provoked a great deal of discussion and was very interesting.

Pam Curley

BBC Class calculator

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-22000973>

Meeting 26th June

At this meeting, we learned of the development of medical science's ability to rectify many eye defects, from the invention of glass, three thousand years BC to the first eye transplant in 2013. It made the group consider what it might be like not to be able to see and realise how fortunate we are in the present time that most common eye defects can be corrected. Spectacles had been invented as early as 1280AD, but it was not until the 17th century that they looked more like we know them today: a copy of a painting dated 1650 shows St Jerome using spectacles. Contact lenses were invented in 1887, but it was in the 20th century when that the greatest

developments were made in correcting eye defects. Thanks to Mike Humphris for a really interesting presentation.

The next meeting will be held on August 21st at 7.30pm. The topic is Paradise Lost: Smyrna and will be given by Sue Clarke. The meeting will be held at Sue Clarke's house.

Pam Curley

HOLIDAY AND VISITS GROUP

Visit to Dresden



On May Day 2013 a group of 30 members flew to Prague where a coach was waiting to take us over the mountains to Germany. Our hotel in a wide pedestrianised shopping area of Dresden caused problems for the coach driver who, in endeavouring to find the entrance, drove into an underground car park and then across the tram tracks!!

Dodging numerous bicycles we walked to the older part of Dresden, the 800 year old capital of Saxony, with its wealth of museums, churches and palaces. We particularly admired the mural made of 25,000 Meissen porcelain tiles portraying the Saxon rulers on horseback. Probably the most famous building in Dresden is the Frauenkirche, a Baroque church, completely destroyed in the air raids in 1945 and beautifully restored 60 years later.



Public transport was excellent and cheap in comparison with the UK. We took the train to Meissen for a tour of the porcelain factory which makes exquisite and expensive items for export. Meissen is a medieval city with narrow cobbled streets and a long climb to the fairytale-looking Albrechtsburg palace and Gothic cathedral. Fortunately we found a lift to carry us down.

Music and bicycles were everywhere on Sunday as Dresden hosted a jazz and Dixieland festival. We went by tram and then walked across the Blue Wonder Bridge over the River Elbe to the funicular railway. At the top station a Dixieland band was playing so we enjoyed the sunshine and the views of Dresden to the sound of "Alexander's Ragtime Band", "Minnie the Moocher", "Lady Be Good" etc. Of course we couldn't leave without another slice of wonderful German cake.

Irene Bentley

FORTHCOMING HOLIDAYS AND VISITS

2-6 September	NORTHUMBERLAND 4 nights half board at the Vermont Hotel Newcastle. Cost £279. Single supplement £45. Visits to Lindisfarne, Bamborough, Cragside and Alnwick. Balance at July meeting.
18-21 October	LONDON 3 nights half board at Holiday Inn Heathrow. Cost £329. Single supplement £30. Includes visits to Windsor Castle, Kew Gardens and Palace and Royal Kitchens, evening performance of War Horse at the New London Theatre, guided sightseeing coach tour of London and Blenheim Palace. Balance at August meeting.
19 November	LIVERPOOL Day visit by coach. Cost £28. Includes tour of St. George's Hall, lunch at the Adelphi Hotel and a cruise on the Mersey Ferry. Deposit £19 at August meeting.

We will soon be looking for ideas for next year's holidays and visits. If there is anywhere you would like to visit please contact Margaret McDermott and Ruth Smith

SEQUENCE DANCING

Sequence dancing starts again in September on alternate Friday afternoons at Hawk Green Reading Room. Any new people would be most welcome to come along and give it a try! If interested, please telephone Kate.

SHAKESPEARE GROUP

The Shakespeare Group has now finished its study of King Lear. Maintaining the theme of historical rulers the next play we will be reading is King John.

Visit to the Lowry Theatre

On Saturday 13 April 10 members of the Shakespeare Group visited the Lowry Theatre for a performance of The Taming of the Shrew by the Propeller theatre Company.

The all male cast of Propeller put on an interesting and stimulating version of Shakespeare's play about getting married and who's really the boss in the battle of the sexes. It included the full Induction with the same actor playing Christopher Sly and Petruchio. In this version Katharina really was wild and out of control, although the playing of her by a fully-grown man was not to everyone's taste, however the part was played in Shakespeare's day.

Overall however, the acting was excellent with all characters getting a chance to develop during the play. By the end Kate appeared to be fully tamed, or was that just a clever ruse to still get her way? And is Bianca really just the attractive but rather insipid younger sister she appears to be before her marriage to Lucentio?

During the interval Propeller entertained the audience with a music and singing in order to raise funds for Cancer Awareness which made a pleasant change from trying to hang on to every word of the Bard.

Steve Reynolds

WALKING GROUP

WALK REPORT TUESDAY 7 MAY

Richard and Susan led a party of five from the Davenport Arms (a.k.a. "Thief's Neck") in Woodford, on a 5-mile circular walk through the Cheshire countryside. Crossing the road and passing the church on the right we proceeded down a country lane, which soon became a path. Turning right, we then followed footpaths through fields and a very pleasant garden to the Bollin at Mill Lane. The Bollin Valley Way having been eroded away by a flood necessitated a diversionary route where we came across goats, donkeys and giraffes.

We took a coffee break under trees by some ponds along the way, then continued along more footpaths until we eventually found several abandoned farm buildings and houses at "Top o'th' Hill". These had planning permission notices on display suggesting conversion to a new development. After exploring these buildings for a while, we then proceeded across various fields to a swampy area with some ditches, which according to the map was the site of an old moat. We continued past a small stream, which we identified as the River Dean, and then we passed a water treatment works, and continued towards the flight sheds at Woodford Airfield. After that we found ourselves along the edge of the delightful "Avro" golf course to reach the airfield, adjacent to the main runway. We then re-traced our steps to the Davenport Arms, and there enjoyed a very pleasant meal.

Jeff Mortimer

WALK REPORT - 28TH MAY 2013

Bluebells in abundance, admixed with the white campion - like flowers of Greater Stitchwort, were one of the abiding memories of this very pleasant six mile walk, led by Louanne and Peter Collins. 11 of us travelled just beyond Leek, to Barnfields Country Park, and crossed over into Ladderedge Country Park up field paths and by bluebell woods, and along a short muddy footpath, before descending between the attractive gardens and houses of Longden down to Horse Bridge.



Then we trod the towpaths of the Calden canal and its bluebell bordered Leek branch, going over the 1841 Hazlehurst aqueduct, and later going under it, all in lovely rural and wooded surroundings. A couple of boats passed us, but otherwise we saw few people on this cloudy but bright day. We looked at a former station platform on a stretch of disused rails, which locals were hoping to link with the popular Churnet Valley Railway, 2 miles away in Cheddleton.

A short detour into the Deep Hayes Country Park for our lunch stop – 3 Country Parks within a 2 mile circle! – showed what a little gem this area was, so we were very grateful to Louanne and Peter for taking us there.

TUESDAY 18TH JUNE 2013

John and Barbara McCartney led a group of 10 on a pleasant scenic tour of Kinder reservoir, Hayfield.



Open access and a substantial new footbridge have recently enabled walkers to traverse this route legally and easily, although signs are still minimal.

The weather was perfect, rhododendrons were flowering, a cuckoo, curlews and skylarks were heralding our passing, and there were plenty of good views to be had.



Among the sights were a helicopter, apparently set up to spray (bracken?), and the distant view of Upper House. This has a fantastic history ranging from isolated farmhouse, haven for travellers treading the nearby packhorse routes, links to the Knight Templars, appropriation by the then Lord Mayor of Manchester as Stockport Corporation bought Kinder farmlands for the reservoir, visits by Agatha Christie, and now handsome restoration into a glamorous wedding venue.

It was good to view Kinder from these relatively low slopes without too much effort, so John got a big thank you from the group for his lovely walk.

WALK REPORT WEDNESDAY 26TH JUNE 2013

14 members joined Gerry Chartres on a lovely walk between Calver and Baslow.



Much of the route was on riverside paths bordering the River Derwent. Trees were reflected in the calm waters, stilled by the impressive weirs originally used to power mills at Calver and Baslow. Water used to be directed along a leat (The Goit), which kept the riverside marshland damp, encouraging an abundance of wild flowers and unusual fauna.

Later we ascended on lanes east of the river, with interesting cottages and features. This area seemed new to most of our party, and had pleasant views over the wide valley, enhanced by an abundance of haymaking in the lush fields.



Gerry had carried out successful negotiations with local innkeepers, so we were able to wash down our packed lunches with beer and shandy, in a splendidly scenic setting by the Derwent. All in all, Gerry and Roger, who had accompanied him during recces, had chosen well – especially with a day of warm sunshine, ideal for walking.

Walter Mason

Don't forget to send all contributions for the next newsletter to me at newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk by Friday, 30 August 2013.

Thank you

July 2013

HIGH LANE U3A NEWSLETTER

www.highlaneu3a.org.uk

