

u3a High Lane

Newsletter

June 2024



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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to another bumper edition of the High Lane u3a newsletter. My thanks to all the group leaders and contributors; I couldn't do it without you. In this edition, we report Kath's success in the national poetry competition, reflect on the great time we had at the recent monthly meeting, give you information about our forthcoming events and holidays and highlight upcoming musical events at the Town Hall. We also have reports of the Travel group visit to Hereford illustrated with some eye-catching photographs.

Another eye-catching photograph is the cover photo this month. David Burke took this magnificent photograph of the Northern Lights as seen in Whaley Bridge. The sunspot responsible for these widespread sightings will be facing the Earth again early in June, around the time of the new moon on 6th June. To see the lights, the advice is to try and get away from clouds and city lights and view the sky through your phone camera. There are some more of David's pictures on page 15.

This is your newsletter. Please feel free to share some of your news, your interests, or items you have found that you think would be of interest to other members. We are pleased to welcome some new members to our u3a this month and look forward to meeting you at our meetings and interest groups. Your contributions to the newsletter will be very welcome.

Attached to the email is the National Office bitesize newsletter for May. This has reports of many varied activities taking place in u3as across the country.

The next issue of our newsletter will be July 2024. If possible, it would help me to have your contributions a bit earlier than usual. As usual, please send contributions to me at newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk

Diane Saxon

PENNINE LINK

Due to misleading information put out by Marple U3a, I wish to clarify that High Lane u3a has not rejoined the Pennine Link and doesn't intend to do so. Hope this clears up the misunderstanding.

Paul Kenneth, (Chair)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual lunch

The annual lunch this year is on July 19th at Hazel Grove Golf Club. We are pleased to welcome Mervyn Saunders to speak to us. Mervyn is Chair of his local u3a and has a lifelong interest in entertainment in its broadest sense. His talk is entitled "A Brief History of Entertainment".

The menu this year is

Tomato and Basil Soup
Ham Hock Terrine with a Red Onion Marmalade
Home-made Chicken Liver pâté

Roast Chicken with Peppercorn Sauce
Pan Roasted Salmon with Lemon Dill Sauce (£2.50 supplement)
Rast beef and Yorkshire pudding
All served with fresh seasonal vegetables and potatoes

Sticky Toffee Pudding with Custard
Lemon Tart
Cheesecake with coulis

Cost is £30 for 3 courses and coffee/tea and includes a gratuity. You can get your tickets for these events at the June meeting or by contacting André directly.

Pub Quiz night



Hosted by the Quiz group. Please come and join us for a fun, light-hearted quiz with a mid-evening break for a cheese ploughman's. We will have lots of different types of questions; something for everyone. Don't worry about coming on your own as we will find you a team.

The date is Friday, 9 August, 7pm start. Please bring your own drinks and glasses.

Tickets are just £6 for the evening's entertainment and will be on sale at the June meeting or by contacting André.

Don't forget to bring some cash or your chequebook to the monthly meeting so you don't miss out on the events.

MONTHLY MEETING

Joy and Kevin Siddall

A musical meander around Britain.

What a treat we had on a beautiful Wednesday in May. We were expecting 'The DNA of British Musicals' but instead were entertained to a magical musical mystery tour around the UK.

Kevin and Joy Siddall are expert musicians and singers. They gently guided us from Broughton Manchester where we listened to 'Dirty Old Town', then onto the 'charabanc' for a trip on the M62 to Liverpool and 'Penny Lane'. This was followed by a stop in Rochdale where we enjoyed Uncle Joe's Mintballs.

Venturing further afield we came to rest near Pitlochry in Scotland where we were entranced by a beautiful ballad 'Will ye go lassie go'. We travelled back into England and found ourselves in Durham and the classic 'Old Durham Town'.

Yorkshire was our next stop with the rousing Ilkley Moor Bar t'At and by now there was much foot tapping around the room. This was followed by 'Are you going to Scarborough Fair' delivered with the most wonderful harmonies. We continued south and enjoyed 'The Nightingale sang in Berkeley Square' in London. Moving further south west we ended up in Cornwall and listened to a compilation of enthusiastic sea shanties. This was followed by the haunting ballad 'Fields of Gold', then into Wales we had 'Handbags and Gladrags'.

We then hopped onto a ferry which took us across to Ireland to hear Pete St John of the Dubliners beautiful song 'Fields of Athenry'. We were all too soon back in Salford Manchester to listen to the classic song about LS Lowry, 'Matchstick Men and Matchstick Cats and Dogs'.

A grand tour certainly; Kevin and Joy have amazing voices and they injected humour to link the various songs.

DNA of British Musicals..... already booked for next year..... don't miss it.

Lynn Arnold

NATIONAL POETRY COMPETITION

Congratulations to Kath Wareham for her success in the recent u3a national Poetry competition. There were over 400 entries for the competition. These were initially grouped, judged and scored by 21 judges, with 16 poems going to the final judging panel. After a discussion and collaborative scoring, a top 3 and shortlisted 7 were decided. The final judging panel decided that Kath's poem was shortlisted as being in the top 10.

Congratulations!



What If...

*What if we could end all the world's wars
Forever and ever, not just a pause.
There would be no more fighting, conflict or hate.
Only love and concord, no need to migrate.
No reason for borders dividing the land.
We could live happily together hand in hand.
No more prejudice, no judgement by race.
I'd look into your soul, not just at your face.
No more privilege, no judgement by class.
Everyone equal, let everyone pass.
You could love your god and I could love mine
No religious divide, absolutely divine!
We could all work together to cherish the earth
As we come to realise how much it is worth.
What if all these ifs could come true
What a wonderful world for me and for you.*

You can read all the winning and shortlisted poems here.

www.u3a.org.uk/learning/poetry-competition

STOCKPORT'S FAMOUS WURLITZER

Many of you will know about the Wurlitzer Theatre Organ in the Edwardian Great Hall in Stockport Town Hall. We were entertained by Aaron Hawthorne, a really talented organist from Glasgow on Saturday 13th April for only £10. What a bargain. This was his first visit to Stockport and hopefully not his last.

The Wurlitzer Publix1 was designed by the American Theatre organist Jesse Crawford for the accompaniment of silent films. There were only 16 of these organs in the world and this organ is unique as it was the only one of this model exported to a theatre outside the US. The Theatre Organ had what was described as the sweetest sound and was given the title of 'The Queen'.

The organ was originally based in the Paramount Theatre in Manchester, later to become the Odeon Theatre. The organ was removed in 1973 to create a two-screen cinema and donated to the Lancastrian Theatre Organ Trust. It was loaned to The Free Trade Hall in 1977 and remained there until 1997, when it was announced the Free Trade Hall was to be converted to a hotel. The Lancastrian Theatre Organ Trust removed the organ and installed it in the Great Hall of Stockport Town Hall, from where it has been entertaining us since November 1999. The organ is now on permanent loan to Stockport Council.



As well as the Saturday events, there are several lunchtime one-hour concerts on Mondays during the year. I can really recommend this, and you can enjoy the ambience of the beautiful Edwardian Ballroom described by former Poet Laureate Sir John Betjeman as 'magnificent'. Both the 199 and 192 buses stop at the Town Hall and on Saturdays the Town Hall Car Park is open.

The next concerts are on Saturday, 8th June starting at 2.30pm with organist Micheal Wooldridge, and Monday 10th June starting at midday, with Matthew Bason at the console. Well worth a visit if you haven't seen and heard this magnificent organ.

Irene Taylor

FYI, the Lancastrian Theatre Organ Trust runs a centre in Eccles where weekly concerts and events take place. See the website for details. [The Lancastrian Theatre Organ Trust \(ltot.org.uk\)](http://TheLancastrianTheatreOrganTrust.ltot.org.uk)

GROUP NEWS

CHURCHES AND PUBS

Wednesday 5th June St George's, New Mills.
Bookings taken at June u3a meeting.

Wednesday 7th August. St. Mary's, Disley.

Wednesday 2nd October. St. James, Taxal.

Wednesday 4th December. To be confirmed.

If you require any further information on the group, just ask or send me an e-mail.

Paul Kenneth

CRIME FICTION READING



Our book for April was A Deeper Sleep by Dana Stabenow, a prolific American author born in Anchorage. She writes in several different genres including crime fiction where her detective is Kate Shugak. There are almost 30 books in this series. The series is set in Alaska and features indigenous Aleuts in their settlement of Ninilta. Kate Shugak lives in a remote cabin in the Alaskan wilderness with her half wolf, half husky dog called Mutt.

This author was new to all of us and reactions varied widely from excellent to more than one of the group being unable to get into the book.

Our current book is the Mysterious case of the Alpertons Angels, a recent book by award winning author Janice Hallett, author of The Appeal. The book went straight to the top of the Sunday Times book – the format is somewhat different and we look forward to hearing the thoughts of our group.

Diane Saxon

CURRENT AFFAIRS

We met once more at Margaret McDermott's house and after an initial brief discussion about travel and trips organised for members, we settled into the topics for the day..... first about the song "Rule Britannia". Should it continue to be sung on the last night of the Proms? The group generally agreed that it should, with just one dissenter. Views were that "it's tradition", "it's pleasant music", and "younger people probably don't understand the reasons for it, anyway".

Next, we discussed assisted dying. Many countries are passing bills to allow this, and we all agreed that a bill should be passed in England too. A couple of personal examples were given where it was felt that compassion had been shown by the medical profession during the last hours of relatives' lives.

Another controversial topic was regarding the £3,000 given to a volunteer immigrant to encourage him to relocate in Ruanda. Mixed views here! In a lighter vein, we discussed whether Angela Rayner should retain her position as deputy Labour leader if Kier Starmer becomes our next Prime Minister. Mixed views again, but all agreed it will be decided by the Labour government.

Then on to the Mayoral elections. It was noted by all of us that Mayors are elected because of what they do, not their politics. But we then went on to discuss the need for Council houses, and how that can be solved.

Other topics included "experts, rather than just politicians in government?", "what can be done about knife crime?" and "the Lib Dems plan to place a higher windfall tax on energy companies and banks, rather than taxing the rich". Plenty to talk about there!

Thanks to Margaret for being hostess and our usual delicious cake during the coffee/tea break. We have room for one or two new members if you'd like to join in our discussions.

Mavis Dean

GERMAN

Sadly, we recently lost one of our longstanding members, Rona White, who first joined the group in 2002. She took part in many of our adult exchanges with Forchheim and made many friends in Germany. She will be much missed.

Because of my holidays, our next meetings will be on 7th, 14th, and 28th June.

Marlene Brookes

GARDENING

At the beginning of May, a group of 10 visited a lovely garden in Lymm on a site rising up to the Bridgewater canal. There was a wealth of blooms, and a huge variety of different of plants and shrubs. The husband is a regional organiser of the yellow NGS gardens for charity, and was very knowledgeable so it made for a very worthwhile trip – and a generous bowl of strawberries, meringue, and cream was a nice ending to our visit.

A fortnight later the group came to Freda and I, and seemed well impressed with the variety of rhododendrons, hostas, show of lupins, and the other varied blooms. (Happily the errant weeds and grasses were generally confined to the back of borders out of sight – it does get harder to keep up as you get older!)



Walter Mason

MEMOIRS

April 2 meeting

Our 53rd meeting was another lively one. We welcomed new member, Sue Harlin. Members continued with readings about first flights, first cruises, winning a trip to Kenya which turned out not to be a scam, the mishaps of taking student groups to European cities and the even more hazardous version of taking adult learners!

We also continued the theme of people who had inspired us with a moving tribute to a late brother who influenced the reader's own career. There were also poems about aging, youth, and Whit Walks. As always, the readings triggered off discussions and reminiscences.

Barbara Speake

May meeting

We welcomed two new members to this month's meeting.

- We had an account about a Russian adventure in 1983 going to Moscow, Georgia, Sochi and Leningrad. A violent storm in a village they were visiting resulted in no electricity.
- Our police inspector told us about his work in fingerprinting, investigating a number of murders and a con man responsible for over 200 thefts.
- A very amusing account of one member's experiences of internet dating. Many different types of men, one who wanted her to go back to his hotel room and one who wanted her to be his carer. She eventually met someone we all knew, and they have been friends for 12 years now.
- Experiences of camping as a girl guide and later as one of the guide leaders. The weather left much to be desired.
- We were shown several quilting pieces and an account of learning how to quilt. The quilts were lovely and some had become heirlooms.
- Barbecues over 25 years with neighbours. There were games including snail racing and other events were on a 'warming theme', garage warming, patio warming, gazebo warming and others.
- A lovely tale about a trip to Nairobi, Kenya with various safaris and wild animals. This lady continues to amaze me with her memoirs.
- An account about childhood. Washing clothes in a cauldron, cleaning the front steps and spitting on the iron that was heated over the fire to make sure it was hot.

- Poems about childhood. One was called 'Asher's den' and another about a rabbit called Betsy, who was given a funeral and buried when she died. They wanted to see if she had gone to bunny heaven so dug her up two days later and found she was still there. The third poem was about the local pond where they played as kids but is no longer there entitled 'Look what they've done to our pond'.
- Memories of growing up in a rural community with long warm summers and collecting tadpoles. We all remembered doing that.
- There were two verbal accounts from the new members. One about a trip to Paris from Ringway with champagne on the way back. The other one also about a flight to France on Silver City Airlines at the age of 3 or 4. She remembered that the plane took cars.

Lots of discussion and memories recalled. Another enjoyable meeting. Perhaps these have brought back memories for you.

There will be no meeting in June or July due to holidays. The next meeting will be Tuesday 6th August.

Barbara Kenneth

READING

Our book for May was THE SCARLET LETTER by Nathaniel Hawthorne. Set in New England in the 17th century, it tells the story of Hester Prynne who is tried for adultery and ostracised by society and forced to wear a scarlet A on her clothing. She makes a living from her needlework skills and is able to provide for her illegitimate child with her earnings from the citizens who condemned her. The novel exposes the hypocrisy of a society in which women are forced to accept punishment while the men continue to earn the approval of their fellows.

The general consensus was that the story was interesting, but we felt that the plot was drawn out too much and would have worked better as a novella.

Our next meeting is on Monday, June 3rd when we will discuss TWO BROTHERS by Ben Elton.

Marlene Brookes

PHOTOGRAPHY

The photography group continues with a monthly themed competition. If anyone would like to join the group, they would be most welcome. Contact me, Ken Jackson, via the u3a site, email (photographygroupleader@highlaneu3a.org.uk) and I will include you in the emails sent out.

May's competition theme was ORNAMENTAL ARCHITECTURE. Results were very close with Diane's picture of the Vienna Opera house just ahead of the pack. In second place were Bramhall Hall by Walter and Ken's Shells Budapest.



Again, just one point behind second, we had a three-way tie for 3rd place with Ken's photo of Milan Cathedral and Diane's photos of the Prado Museum, Madrid and San Marco, Venice.

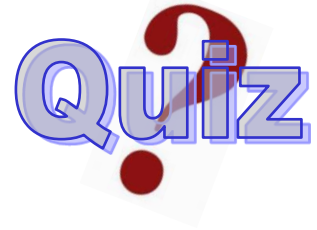


Bicycles is our theme for next month. Good luck to all.

Ken Jackson

QUIZZING

Our quiz for May was set by Janet. Questions were in various categories, including geography, history, food and drink, arts and books, and a 'True/False' round.



This month's sample questions.

- What is the bestselling novel of all time?
- How many eyes does a spider have?
- Where could you see Van Gogh's The Starry Night picture?
- In which state is Harvard University?
- Where are the Angel falls?
- Who wrote Chitty Chitty Bang Bang?
- Which city is overlooked by Vesuvius?
- What is the national dish of South Africa?
- There were six Bronte sisters. Can you name all six?

We normally meet on the fourth Thursday of the month. The next meeting is 27th June. Please get in touch if you would like to join us.

Diane Saxon

TRAVEL



LITTLECOTE June 17th-21st.

Please collect itinerary brochure at June meeting

IRELAND August 26th-30th.

Balance due at June meeting,

JUDITH MARY July 12th.

2 hour boat trip with afternoon tea. £21

Margaret McDermott

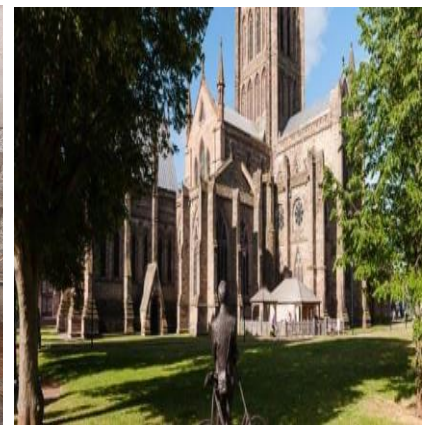
TRAVEL GROUP VISIT

Hereford – Llandrindod Wells – Friday 19 April to Monday 22nd April.

The Shropshire Sculpture Park and British Ironworks Centre was the group's first stop. A fascinating park with sculptures made from fridges, washing machines, guns knives. Etc. There were herds of deer and other unusual sculptures. One was a bee made from guns and knives collected by Greater Manchester police.

The group's next stop would be Hereford Cathedral. Our coach stopped conveniently outside the gates leading through a green space to the cathedral door. The cathedral church of Anglican Dioceses of Hereford was built between 1079–c 1250.

Firstly, we were taken to a memorial to S.A.S. as a service had not long finished in memory of those in the Special Air Service. The font was nearby with a very old oak lid. Looking around the organ on wheels was pointed out. Many splendid stained-glass windows were in the cathedral; to name two – one Victorian window of Adam and Eve next to Jesus taken off the cross and the third the Resurrection. Another window pointed out was a modern stained-glass window dedicated to Thomas Ahern who loved nature; the windows showed this. Another interesting feature was the 'radiator' – 'our guide thought it kept the Bishop warm' (see middle photo).



St Thomas of Hereford – also known as St Thomas Cantilupe – was a major medieval saint, and his shrine was a very important pilgrimage destination in medieval Britain. The surviving collection of miracle records for St Thomas of Hereford is second only to that of Thomas Becket. St Thomas of Hereford had a varied and colourful career, including training in the law, serving as Chancellor of Oxford University, and involvement in high-level politics as Lord Chancellor of England. He was Bishop of Hereford from 1275 until his death in 1282. King Ethelbert – king and martyr is Hereford's Patron Saint

Mappa Mundi is drawn on a single sheet of vellum (calf skin) measuring 64 × 52 inches (1.58 × 1.33 metres), tapering towards the top with a rounded apex. The geographical material of the map is contained within a circle 52 inches in diameter and reflects the thinking of the medieval Church with Jerusalem at the centre of the world.

Superimposed on to the continents are drawings of the history of humankind and the marvels of the natural world. These 500 or so drawings include of around 420 cities and towns, 15 Biblical events, 33 plants, animals, birds and strange creatures, 32 images of the peoples of the world and 8 pictures from classical mythology. This is kept in the cathedral. Hereford Cathedral Library is the largest Surviving Chained Library in the World.

Hergest Croft Gardens

On a beautiful sparkling day, the group visited this wonderful garden in Herefordshire. What a delight. Years of hard work and dedication has resulted in an abundant array of spring planting. From specimen trees, rising up to a soaring canopy of monkey puzzle, copper beech, firs of every variety and colourful azaleas, rhododendrons and magnolia, many having been grown from seeds imported from China. Under planting of bluebells and hosta completed the whole vista.

Our visit concluded with welcome refreshments on the patio in glorious sunshine, everyone having had a delightful visit.



Hay on Wye

On Sunday we visited Hay Castle, originally built as a defensive motte and bailey to secure the border between England and Wales after the Norman Conquest. During the following centuries it was attacked and burnt several times, finally becoming a Jacobean country house in the 17th century, occupied by several notable local families.



Around 1961 it was acquired by Richard Booth, probably its most famous owner. He declared unilateral independence for Hay and had himself crowned King Richard. He set about turning Hay into a massive second-hand bookshop and was at first very successful. Rare book collectors would travel from all over the world to seek out books for their collection. No doubt the internet put paid to its continuing success and Richard was eventually declared bankrupt.

His lasting legacy is the Hay Book Festival which continues successfully and attracts writers and visitors from all over the world.

The group had a trip on the Monmouthshire Brecon Canal on the Sunday afternoon with an added extra; a quick visit to Brecon Cathedral.



Brecon cathedral although small felt 'homely' with its warm pinky grey stone and beautiful stained-glass windows. A bonus was that the choir were practising.

All too quickly our time in Hereford was coming to an end. The Cider Museum in Hereford was our final destination. The apple trees are pruned in January, the blossoms burst in May. Pressing takes place in the Autumn originally through horsehair, but now coconut fibre is used to filter the juice. The group had a taste of apple juice or Suzie Wong cider, a range of cider that had animals on the label Suzie Wong was a cat.



Write ups by Dierdre Nicholls, Marlene Brookes and Ruth Smith

Photography by Ron Rennel



More of David's Northern Lights pictures

SHORT WALKS

'Hitchcock's film 'The Birds 'came to mind as we started the short walk around Etherow Country Park – a man was feeding the pigeons! As you can see from the photos, the day was good as were conditions underfoot as we walked round the boating lake. First stop was at the weir. From this point we followed the road until a steep path took us down to the lower lake where the group had coffee admiring the view and the Rhododendrons. Walking around this lake a swan was seen and Mandarin ducks with a duckling.



Onward up a flight of steps to the top path where we hoped to see bluebells en-masse, sadly those that had 'not gone over' were hidden with weed. The May Bluebell walk now is renamed the Rhododendron walk.

On our way back to the car park we passed Keg Cottage and walked the path the other side of the boating lake where a hissing Canada goose was protecting his mate who was sitting on eggs in the nest.



Close to the car park a man came with his model boat and a few yacht men had their yachts ready to sail the lake. The group clocked up just over four miles.

The Short Walks Group's next walk is on Saturday 15th June. Meeting in High Lane Village Hall Car Park at 09.15 hrs to share lifts or meet at 09.45hrs at Quarry car park on Werneth Low Road – just past the Hare and Hounds pub at the crossroads – the top of Joel Lane.

Ruth Smith

WALKING

U3A walk 29/5/2024

16 walkers met up at High Lane Village Hall car park for our monthly walk. Due to recent heavy rain, some of the paths around our intended route through Marple Wood and over Torkington Brook had deteriorated and become very muddy, slippery and in some places the wooden steps had collapsed so the walk was simplified to avoid these obstacles.



We set off along Windlehurst Road and turned down the footpath via the Disley Tunnel ventilation shaft, then headed past some inquisitive sheep and the stables to Middlewood Way. We went along Middlewood Way to the outskirts of Marple where we stopped for a coffee break. After our rest, we followed the Cown Edge Way across Marple Golf Course and on to the Macclesfield canal where we turned south and headed back to High Lane.



Near the traffic lights at Doodfield we spotted some geese with new goslings and an animal which at first glance looked like a tiny deer, but which Ian Hope told us was a Jacob's sheep.

On arrival back at High Lane park those that had bought lunch were able to sit at the picnic tables to eat; just before it started to drizzle!

Total distance 3.9 miles (6.28 km)

Rick Hedley

NATIONAL OFFICE LEARNING EVENTS

These are a selection of the **May events**. All are free on Zoom. There are usually hundreds of members listening to the talks.

- 4 June Taking revenge: Artemisia Gentileschi's Quest for Justice
- 4 June Flight Inspirations Aviation Group Meeting: Sir Geoffrey de Havilland
- 5 June AI Chatbots, asking the right questions
- 5 June Making plans for the future from home, for free
- 7 June Help Us Remember with the War Memorials Register
- 12 June Vaccines
- 14 June London 2012 – A Games Maker's Story
- 18 June Expert tips and Essential Apps for Effortless Online Living
- 19 June Secrets of the Human Brain: Talk Six: Your Spinal Cord
- 20 June The Olympics: From Olympia, via Much Wenlock to the World
- 26 June Celestial marvels: Demystifying the Cosmos
- 27 June Darkness on the Edge of Town: Bruce Springsteen and the American dream

Click here for details and to book a place. <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

Share Something Brilliant Today

u3a has released the first film in a new series, Share Something Brilliant Today, celebrating how u3a members exchange ideas and skills with each other.

The first film features Chichester u3a's Practical Science group, who meet together regularly and explore scientific experiments. Previous sessions have explored botany and natural history. In the session featured, members tried a range of activities, including assembling a cloud chamber, witnessing static electricity, and creating a small battery-operated engine. The focus is on being able to directly take part in experiments – rather than just learning about the theory of science. For this session, the group worked with a professional at Chichester College and used their laboratory – enabling them to conduct experiments in a safe environment.



The film is the first in our new series, Share Something Brilliant Today. The series will showcase the way that members share their skills with each other, while forming friendships.

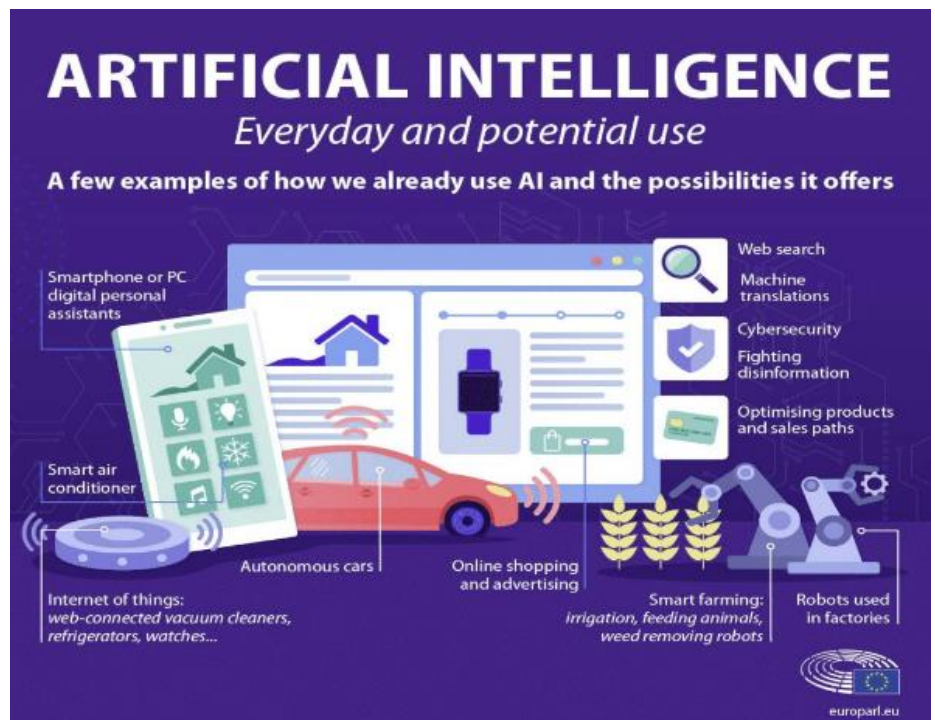
You can watch the film on our [YouTube channel](#).

A Talk on Artificial Intelligence by Ian Hawker of East Suffolk U3A

AI is set to have a huge influence on all our lives. Currently investment in AI is running at £100 billion per year. The expectation is that it will improve the efficiency of systems and operations and reduce costs.

Human and AI intelligence is not the same, AI doesn't have any understanding, it is just manipulating data. Humans use intuition and bring a wide variety of experience to bear on a problem, whereas AI just learns to do things to a set of rules. AI systems learn by example. They are given huge numbers of repetitive tasks and are told the outcomes. Over time they learn to associate particular inputs with particular outcomes. It is very expensive to train AI but very cheap to deploy. Once it has been trained it can work 24/7, doesn't get tired, ill or need time off. Humans can be trained to do the same job, but can't work very long hours; they are slow and expensive.

Some of the current uses of AI are in translation and speech recognition. In the entertainment industry it can be used for new content creation. Chatbots are now used instead of customer service personnel on company websites. In the arts it can create music, painting and poetry. It is used in self-drive cars and robotics. Another use is in medical diagnosis. AI is as good as doctors at detecting lung cancer, skin cancer and better at detecting breast cancer. It



can monitor health and will be used for early detection of dementia, Parkinson's disease and MS. AI is used in education for personalised learning. In astronomy to analyse data from telescopes which produce huge amounts of data far in excess of what can be analysed by humans.

The downsides to AI are that it is used to produce fake news, fake photographs, misinformation i.e. lies and disinformation which simulates information from a trusted source. There are agreed controls of the use of AI but they are voluntary and impossible to enforce.

Mark Saxon