

FROM THE CHAIR

As I write this we have more snow than we've seen for a good few years. I hope you are all keeping warm and safe.

I'm pleased to be able to report that the AGM was very well attended and that some 400 members have already renewed their membership. We are also pleased to have been able to maintain the membership fee at the same rate as last year particularly when more than half of it goes to the National Office.

The Beginners bridge group which took such a long time to get going is nearing its end and has been very successful. We are hoping, or should I say expecting, that some of the members of this group will get bitten by the bug and go on to join one of our existing bridge groups.

The interest groups are the life blood of the U3A and our Group Leaders are key in enabling us to offer a varied set of interest groups. Some groups came to the end of their life last year and some new ones started. With our membership level we should be aiming to start some new groups each year. We will analyse your suggestions from the renewal forms and try and set up groups to match.

We have had some suggestions during the past year but either not had enough people interested or not been able to find people willing to get a group going. Some of the suggested groups were Play Reading, Crime Fiction, Curry and Wine. We also have a member willing to restart the Reading group if there is sufficient demand. Leading a group can be a shared role; several of our groups already operate very successfully in this way. A group can get started with around five or six initial members and build up over its first few months.

Please get in touch with our Groups co-ordinator, Doreen Scotte, or have a word with a committee member or group leader if you have any suggestions which you think would help to develop our activities.

Best wishes
Diane Saxon



Very appropriate for the weather at the moment. This photograph of St Thomas' church in the snow, taken by Bob Barlow, featured on the January page of the 2018 calendar produced by the Photography group.

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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 May 2018 edition. Please get your contributions to me by Friday 27 April 2018.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

JANUARY MEETING: DIY SURGERY

The first meeting of the year took place on Wednesday 10th January. To a large audience, Mr Peter Sykes described briefly what medicine was like in the early 60s when he qualified. We were interested to hear that he had been at Medical School with a member of the audience; Jeff Mortimer, our webmaster. Peter then described a modern gall bladder removal operation, using "keyhole surgery", ably assisted by Carole Clulow.



AGM

The AGM was, as usual, very well attended with 139 members present. The Secretary, Pam Curley, read the minutes of the previous meeting which were accepted as a true record of the meeting. This was followed by reports from the Chair and the Treasurer and the Election of Officers for 2018. The minutes of the meeting are available on the website. We then enjoyed some entertaining reports from the Group Leaders.

The other important aspect of this meeting was renewing your membership. If you have not yet done so there is a membership renewal form and instructions on the website.

Disappointing to report but we had no new nominations for Secretary or for Committee members. Fortunately, Pam Curley agreed to continue as Secretary and all Committee members indicated their willingness to stand for another year.

The Officers and Committee for 2018 are

- Chair: Diane Saxon
- Vice chair: Paul Kenneth
- Treasurer: Les Birks
- Secretary: Pam Curley
- Membership Secretary: Margaret McDermott

Committee Members: Pam Andrew, Maureen Christian, Linda Dale, Sue Harlin, Sheila Harrop, Barbara Kenneth, Trevor Kinvig, Andre Lister, Margaret McDermott, Doreen Scotte.

The updated Committee, Speakers and Groups list will be mailed with this edition of the newsletter and printed copies will be available at the March meeting. This is also available on the website but for privacy and security does not have personal contact details.

ANNUAL LUNCH

This year's Annual Lunch will be on 18 April 2018. We have a change of venue this year and are going to the Alma Lodge hotel. There is a good choice of dishes on the menu. Tickets cost £20 plus a gratuity and will be on sale at the March meeting. Numbers are limited so don't delay in booking your places.

GREATER MANCHESTER NETWORK OF U3AS

You will know that High Lane U3A is a member of the Greater Manchester Network of U3As. The Network is organising a number of activities this year that may be of interest to members.

COTTONOPOLIS DAY

The Network been developing a research project entitled Cottonopolis, aimed at encouraging coordinated research activity among its constituent U3As. On 27th January the Network organised a Workshop for members wishing to help with the project.

The day began with the keynote speaker, social anthropologist, Dr Mary Searle-Chatterjee. Her subject was "Lancashire Textiles and the Indian connection"

We then dispersed into Workshop groups on topics of our choice, e g social and family history transport and social conditions. Advice was given on research. We were encouraged to look beyond Wikipedia and search archives, census libraries etc. The help given was very useful for promoting active learning. The final session was a plenary where we discussed ways of moving the project forward.

Sheila Harrop

THE BIG SING

The Greater Manchester U3A Network is organising a Big Sing Concert, open to all U3A members, to be held at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester on 12 September 2018. A programme of popular songs and songs from the musicals will be rehearsed under a Halle conductor, with piano accompaniment, and a single mid-afternoon performance will take place. The cost for participation will be in the range £15 to £20.

Members are invited to register their interest on the events page of the U3A North West Regional website <https://u3asite.org.uk/north-west>

QUIZ

The Network has also organised a quiz where teams from each of the member U3As will be faced with a range of puzzles and questions with prizes for the top teams. High Lane U3A has a team in the event and we wish them well.

U3A MAGAZINE: THIRD AGE MATTERS

Third Age Matters (TAM) and Sources have reached a landmark circulation of 250,000 households.

TAM contains articles and features of interest to U3A members, plus news and information from U3A head office and U3As across the country. The magazine will be delivered to your home for £2.50 (for all five editions). It's not too late to order your copies. Give your name and the money to the Membership Secretary.



Accompanying each magazine is a copy of the Sources publication. There are 'Sources' booklets for specific subject areas and many subject areas have a subject advisor available to help with setting up and running interest groups. The



current edition of Sources has a new feel and links to an accompanying website – Sources online – with articles and news on all aspects of our learning by the members for the members. You can find out more at sources.u3a.org.uk

ONLINE COURSE: Beyond the Ballot

There are still two weeks left to sign up for a free online course on FutureLearn run by Royal Holloway, University of London and the UK Parliament, to mark the centenary of votes for women. Beyond the Ballot explores the history of women's rights in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and the campaign for the vote from the first mass petition calling for women's suffrage in 1866 to the 1918 Representation of the People and 1928 Equal Franchise Acts.

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/womens-rights>

There are many other free courses available through FutureLearn. Starting soon are: Archaeology of Portus, pre-calculus, Spanish, Finance, Film-making, Parkinsons, Robots, Italian, Oceans, North East England, and many more.

A new TV comedy show

TV production company CPL Productions Ltd are producing a brand new TV comedy programme called 'Run Through'. Award-winning comedian Jimmy Carr is joined by three celebrity guests but the audience has the opportunity to ask the celebrity guests anything they like – no question is off-limits! CPL are looking for people who can really speak their mind, people who would really enjoy chatting to celebrities, or those who are unafraid to ask quite personal questions – and they thought of U3A!

The show is a non-broadcast run-through, meaning it won't be aired on television at this time, but if it becomes a series we may well get back in touch with applicants to be involved again. If you are interested in taking part you can apply following the link here

<https://www.shortaudition.com/public-inquiry>

RISE OF THE SOCIAL SENIORS REVEALED

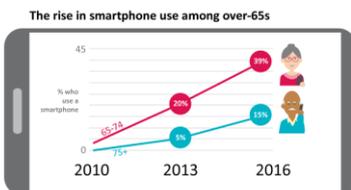
Ofcom 14 June 2017

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/latest/media/media-releases/2017/rise-social-seniors>

- Older adults take to smartphones and tablets in record numbers
- Half of internet users aged 65-74 have a social media profile
- But some older internet users lack confidence when online

Record numbers of older people are embracing smart and social technology, with a quarter of over-75s using tablet computers, and half of online baby boomers taking to social media.

The findings are from Ofcom’s annual Adults’ Media Use and Attitudes report, which reveals how people use, understand and feel about the media and communications they rely upon each day. This year’s report shows striking growth in older people’s use of technology between 2015 and 2016. Baby boomers aged 65-74 are increasingly connected, with four in ten (39%) using a smartphone, up 11 percentage points in a year.

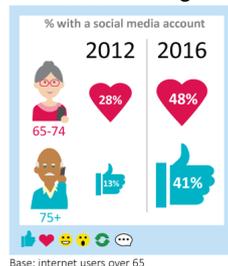


There has been a sharp rise in over-75s using tablets, from 15% to 27%. And the use of

smartphones among this age group has nearly doubled, from 8% to 15%.

Nearly half (48%) of internet users aged 65-74 now have a social media profile. Among over 75s, the proportion with a profile has nearly doubled – from 19% to 41%.

Social media use among over 65s



But while 44% of over-75s go online, more than half do not, and most of these (86%) have no plans to do so.

Digital behaviour

Ofcom’s research finds that older adults are more connected than ever, but still spend less than half the amount of time online than the younger generation. Over-65s spend 15 hours online each week, compared to 32 hours among 16-24s.

Social seniors aged over 65 also have different experiences online. Seven in ten (72%) over-65s said they have not seen anything to offend or upset them in the last year, compared to 56% of adults generally. Most over-75s (51%) are ‘narrow’ internet users, meaning they typically carry out limited online activities - this compares to the average of 28%.

Social savviness

While older internet users are increasingly active online, some older people lack online confidence. A fifth (20%) of people over 65 describe themselves as ‘not confident’ online, much higher than the average (7%). One reason could be that many older users are new to the internet. Some 21% of internet users over 75 went online for the first time in the last five years – twice the wider average. For those older internet users lacking confidence, this is particularly pronounced when managing personal data. 16% of internet users over 55 said they ‘never’ consider the data or privacy implications when posting photos online – the largest proportion to say ‘never’ among all age groups.

Winter by Walter de la Mare

Clouded with snow
The cold winds blow,
And shrill on leafless bough
The robin with its burning breast
Alone sings now.

The rayless sun,
Day's journey done,
Sheds its last ebbing light
On fields in leagues of beauty spread
Unearthly white.

Thick draws the dark,
And spark by spark,
The frost-fires kindle, and soon
Over that sea of frozen foam
Floats the white moon.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

OUR U3A ACTIVITIES

14 March	Growing Old Disgracefully: Edwina Currie
11 April	Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela: Noel Moroney
18 April	Annual Lunch. Alma Lodge Hotel. £20 plus gratuity
9 May	Two Queens and a Countess: David Templeman

FORTHCOMING TRAVEL GROUP EVENTS

Contact: Margaret McDermott or Ruth Smith

21 April	SKIPTON. £18. Tour of Skipton Castle
12- 14 May 2018	Weekend in the SHREWSBURY Area. £200 pp £42 ss
2-8 June	DORSET. Fully booked. Waiting list. Balance at March meeting.
17-24 September	IRELAND. 4 nights HB at Quality Hotel Youghal. Flight from Manchester to Dublin. Own coach for visits. Cost £449 + small amount for entrance fees. Single supp. £90. £100 deposit at March meeting.
21-25 October	BUDAPEST. 4 nights HB at Hotel Unio Budapest. Flight from Manchester to Budapest. £516 + entrance fees. Single supp. £80. £95 deposit at March meeting
21 Nov – 7 Dec	CRUISE. P&O ARCADIA from Southampton to Lisbon, Canaries, Madeira (2days), Azores

NOTE: TRAVEL INSURANCE by FREE SPIRIT

No upward age limit for both Single trip and
Annual

<https://www.freespirittravelinsurance.com/>

STEPPING HILL EVENTS

Wed 4 April 12.00-13.00	LOVE HEARTS: health talk about heart disease
Tues 24 July 19:00-20:00	AS GOOD AS NEW: health talk about joint replacement
Tues 18 Sept 19:00-20:30	TOUR OF RADIOLOGY DEPARTMENT
Tues, 20 Nov 12:00-13:00	EYE OPENER: health talk about eyesight and cataracts

Please contact Margaret McDermott if you would
like to book places for any of these.

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL U3A EVENTS

19 March	U3A at the RI. An afternoon of talks on subjects ranging from materials science to calculating colour. £20. Book via U3A National webiste.
30 April	Science day. Heswall. Deeside and Wirral U3A https://u3asites.org.uk/files/n/north-west/docs/sciencedayflyer.pdf
28-31 Aug	Summer School. Newton Rigg Agricultural College.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

14 March	Midday concert. Bridgewater hall.
20 March	Lady Windermere’s Fan. Oscar Wilde season. Various venues
23 March	Beauty and the Beast. Film and orchestra. Bridgewater.
24 March	Stockport Symphony Orchestra. Town Hall
24 March	Hazel Grove Orchestra. Wesley St Methodist Church
4 April	Macbeth. ROH. Various venues
11 April	Macbeth. RSC Live. Various venues
19 April – 19 May	Cherry Orchard. Royal Exchange theatre
28-29 April	Swan Lake. Opera House

GROUP REPORTS

BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 1 AND 2

January Meeting

Our January meeting featured the ballet "Romeo & Juliet. The ballet is in three acts and is set in Verona in the 14th Century. It tells the story of the bitter enmity between the houses of Capulet and Montague, and of the tragedy that unfolds when two members of the opposing families fall in love.

The performance featured: "The Royal Ballet Company", with music by "Prokofiev" and choreography by "Kenneth Macmillan". The dancers were "Lauren Cuthbertson" as "Juliet" and "Federico Bonelli" as "Romeo".

February Meeting:

Our February meeting was in two parts:

The first part entitled "Great Dancers of our Time", featured three renowned dancers from the world of international ballet, each performing pieces from well known ballets. The dancers featured are: "Vladimir Malakhov", "Lucia Lacarra" and "Kiyoko Kimura". Each performing extracts from their particular favourite ballets.

The performance included extracts from a number of ballets including:

"Manon", "Voyage", "Le Spectre de Rose", "Swan Lake", "Lady of the Camellias" and others.

The second part of our meeting featured the ballet "L'Arlisienne", frequently known as "The Woman from Arles". It tells the story of Frederic and Vivette his childhood love. Although Vivette is a flawless fiancée, Frederic is obsessed and unable to escape the consuming image of the beautiful woman from Arles. The story ends with a tragic death, a painful reminder that some amours can never be put to rest.

The performance featured the "Paris Opera Ballet" with music by "Georges Bizet" and choreography by "Roland Petit. The dancers were "Eleonora Abbagnato as "Vivette" & "Jeremie Belingard" as "Frederic".

Sheila Hall

BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 3 AND 4

24th January / 1st February:

We watched a film: American Ballet Theatre: A History. This outlined the origins of ballet in France and Russia and led on to the history of ballet in America.

We also watched some short pieces illustrating the work of choreographers working in America.

7th March / 8th March:

The theme for these meetings was Two American Choreographers.

We saw Twyla Tharp and Mark Morris in rehearsal and followed these sessions with examples of their work.

For our next meeting we will see a performance of Romeo and Juliet from La Scala, Milan.

Meg Humphries

BALLROOM DANCING

The ballroom dancing group has enjoyed good attendances for our pleasurable mix of ballroom and Latin dancing. Sam and Walter have provided the music and some instruction, Sam on Foxtrot and Tango, and Walter on Argentine Tango, and we also do a few sequence dances and the occasional line dance.



Walter Mason

CARD MAKING

The last few meetings of the card making group have been very productive. We've made some gorgeous Christmas cards, using some very effective inking techniques with masks and stencils, and moved on to stunning birthday greeting cards using dies, embossing folders, and colouring techniques.

Here are a few examples of recent cards.

In the next few months we are planning to make an amazing box card for a very special occasion, an eclipse card (these are really popular in the card making community at the moment, but I have no

idea why they are called eclipse cards), a dandelion card using distress inks - which are brilliant for blending, and have a play with beautiful and vibrant pixie powders to create colourful backgrounds



Card making is certainly an absorbing and enjoyable hobby, and we all look forward to our friendly and inspiring monthly meetings. Our numbers remain steady at 8 members, and we have room for a couple more. We meet the first Thursday of every month at St Thomas's Church Hall. Please contact Christine or Dot if you would like to know more. For anyone who would like to learn some of the basics of card making with a view to building their confidence and eventually join the main group, we'd love to run some beginner's sessions on request - Christine and Dot would love to hear from you.

Christine Fox
Doreen Green

CINEMA

After a long Christmas break Cinema Cub has been to see two films, "The Darkest Hour" and "The Post" which were excellent.

We must not forget the Plaza Theatre in Stockport which shows films at 11:00 and 2:00 now and again. Some are latest releases and others are vintage films. The advantages are that you can travel in daylight, enjoy the organ playing and if you fancy, have lunch in the lovely café. Leaflets with listings are freely available.

Other cinemas show films in the daytime but the aim of Cinema Club is to support our local heritage by using the Regent cinema in Marple. This was built in 1878 as a Christian meeting house and only became a cinema in 1936.

Sheila Harrop

CRAFT AND NEEDLEWORK

In November, I decided to stand down as group leader after about 14 years and, at our December meeting, we decided to wind up the group for the time being. Numbers have been falling in recent years, mainly as a result of illness and the remaining members have, in recent months, lacked the enthusiasm and inspiration to continue. That does not mean that we have totally given up crafting but that we can now be creative when we feel like it, without feeling the compulsion to be constantly producing items. We shall continue to meet from time to time as we enjoy each other's company. Many thanks to you all for supporting our sales and raffles.

Marlene Brookes

CURRENT AFFAIRS

In January our topics of discussion were as ever many and varied. Uppermost in our minds was the collapse of Carillion and the effects this has had on projects within our area and beyond and for the employees affected. Should contacts for public projects be given to private companies or should more be managed by the state? Some thought there might be a return to the "bad old days" of the 70s when the unions were very strong but the majority felt that local councils were more efficient in determining projects within their area.

We were all agreed on many subjects: that men and women at the BBC should receive equal pay; that the homeless should not be removed from the streets of Windsor on Royal Wedding Day; that public libraries should be supported in all areas, (at the moment, Stockport comes out rather well in this field): that John Worboys should not be released from prison.

As usual, Brexit reared its ugly head and the group were divided on whether there should be a second referendum when the terms become known. Safeguarding our borders was crucial but the suggestion that our borders could be controlled by amateurs was dismissed as impractical. It was pointed out that the red passport was not forced upon us. Our government chose it despite being allowed to keep the blue one (Croatia opted for blue). Other myths dispelled regarding asylum seekers: in 2016-17, 34,000 sought asylum in the UK; 85,000 in France, 141,999 in Italy and 214,000 in Germany, so the UK is not the most desirable country for most asylum seekers.

Marlene Brookes

February meeting

OXFAM. Following the Oxfam scandal, all seven members present at the meeting felt that we would not stop our contributions, if we did contribute, because we would be hurting the poor.

YOUNG BOY TAKING CANNABIS TO CONTROL EPILEPSY. Five members thought that he should be allowed to have cannabis and two did not think that he should, although we all agreed that this would raise many problematic issues.

WESTMINSTER COUNCIL ASKING FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD THE RUNNING OF THE BOROUGH FROM THE WEALTHY RESIDENTS. Five members thought that this was a very good idea, whilst two did not.

LIVERPOOL COUNCIL IS SELLING DERELICT HOUSES, TO SUITABLE PEOPLE FOR £1. All members thought that this was a good idea, rather than leaving them in a bad state, or possibly having them demolished.

MEMORIAL PATHWAY. The Chancellor of a university has started a charity to fund the building of a Memorial Pathway, which will start in Belgium and finish on the Swiss border, following the line of the western front, to commemorate World War 1. Four of the group thought this was a very good idea whilst three were against.

WHERE SHOULD THE TWO TERRORISTS CAPTURED IN SYRIA BY THE AMERICANS BE TRIED - AMERICA, BRITAIN OR THE HAGUE? Three members thought they should be tried in America, one thought Britain and three the Hague.

AUSTERITY - CUTS GO ON, TO WHAT PURPOSE? The general consensus was that we did not know, but we would like to know. However, at the moment there does not seem to be one and whilst it is undermining our welfare state, since 2008 there seems to be 'private wealth and public squalor'.

WOULD YOU CONSIDER GIVING UP PLASTIC MATERIALS TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT - IS IT POSSIBLE? We all agreed that we would, however, we also felt that this change is in the hands of the those who package the goods and not the consumer: except for people who buy bottled water!

UNIVERSITY FEES - SHOULD THE FEES BE FIXED ACCORDING TO THERE PERCEIVED VALUE? After much discussion about the present situation, before moving to probably yet another flawed situation, the burning question was - who decides the value of a course?

THE TRANSITION PERIO FOR BREXIT COULD GO ON BEYOND 2020. We all agreed that this highly likely, if not a certainty.

WILL IRELAND EVER BE UNITED? We all thought that it should be, but all agreed that it would not happen in our lifetime!

Pam Curley

DINING

Did you know there is a restaurant called Elevations within Stockport College? Under supervision the catering students are taught how to cook and serve the public.



This is where the Dining Group went for lunch in February. We were limited to thirty so sadly we had to turn people away.

What a joy it was. We were greeted by the students who took our coats. The dining room was light and bright with an open plan kitchen. Three long tables were set with white linen tablecloths, lime green napkins, glasses and a wine list. My waitress even recommended a wine. The same colour scheme ran all through the restaurant and the walls were very dramatically decorated by students from the Art Department.

The main event, the food. Three courses with tea or coffee at a very reasonable price was very tasty and attractively presented, although the beef cheeks were considered rather tough. All in all we had an enjoyable lunch and would certainly visit Elevations again.

Jeanette Bell
Dorothy Neillands
Dorothy Gerard.

GARDENING

In January the group had its annual lunch at the Hanging Gate, a change from previous years, and we reawakened our interest in the forthcoming season.



The following month we went to Dunham Massey Winter Garden on a bright day which showed off the many snowdrop beds, and the accompanying dwarf iris, cyclamen and early daffodils. The snowdrops in particular have multiplied and matured and gave an excellent display.

Unfortunately, the walking group had mistaken their normal walk date and gave yours truly and a couple of others an unfortunate date clash dilemma!

Walter Mason



GERMAN

The German group continues to prosper with 11 members attending our most recent meeting.

There is never a shortage of topics to discuss as the members lead such interesting lives and enjoy sharing their experiences with each other.

Our reading matter reflects our desire to acquire as much up to date vocabulary as possible. In recent weeks we have read about the theft of a consignment of Scandi-noir novels, eating disorders and the romantic opportunities afforded to dog-walkers.

Photos taken at our Christmas lunch at the Wycliffe Hotel



Marlene Brookes

HISTORY

Memories

One of the group members had previously brought along a diary for the year of 1945 written by her father and it had provoked a great deal of interest and also other group members reminiscences from their own families, so it was decided to have a meeting at which anyone who wished could contribute. Consequently, it is difficult to give any detailed information, but it was interesting to hear family stories: three members of the group discovered that they had all lived in the same street in Stockport during the 1940s.

The February meeting was cancelled due to the weather.

For our next meeting we are going to Halifax for a guided tour of the Piece Hall on Thursday 15th March.

Pam Curley

OPERA APPRECIATION

9th / 23rd January.

We watched the Royal Ballet in a performance of Cendrillon. This is Massenet's version of the story of Cinderella. It was a very amusing production with some stunning singing from the fairy godmother.

13th/ 27th February.

We returned to more dramatic opera, with a riveting performance of Il Trovatore from the New York Metropolitan Opera. In the introduction, it was said that all it needed were the four best singers in the world – and I think that they had found them. The soprano in particular was sensational.

For our March meetings, we will have a contrast, with music by Handel. I intend to show Hercules from the Opera National de Paris.

Meg Humphries

PHOTOGRAPHY

The January competition "Clocks" resulted in 1st Diane – Musee d'Orsay, Paris; 2nd Walter - Durham Markets; 3rd Walter - Astronomical Clock, Old Town Hall, Prague.



All the pictures were excellent, and it had been very challenging to decide the best. It was agreed to show six of the pictures at the AGM meeting, and Jeff Robinson presented the display.

We also agreed to sound out opinion on a 2019 calendar, on a similar theme, but perhaps including pictures just a little further afield. The survey at the AGM suggested a 2019 calendar would again be popular.

The group welcomes new members so if you are interested in joining this group please contact me.

Walter Mason

QUIZ GROUP

We continue to meet monthly on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Our first meeting of the year saw several members with other places they had to be so a small group of us spent a pleasurable morning disentangling cryptic clues to various subjects including plants and herbs, accompanied by whisky cake, mince pies and Ecclefechan tarts; it was Burns night.

At our February meeting, quizmaster Glenda had some very challenging questions for us. Do you know how Elaine Bookbinder is better known? Who wrote Revelations? Donald Trump's middle name? The name of the UK's largest warship? The traditional name for a Number 2 wood? As ever, good fun and lots of learning – if only we could remember what we learn!

The group has also been branching out into the local community. A team took part in the recent quiz at St. Thomas' church and we are pleased to report that they won first prize.

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

Diane Saxon

WALKING

Walk report Tuesday 9th January 2018



Walter led 11 walkers on a 4 mile walk from Lyme Hall car park. It was a grey day with a biting cold wind in exposed areas, but fortunately much of the route was sheltered by high walls and woods and we rarely felt the cold.

Starting towards East Lodge, we turned before Kennel Wood onto the wide track between Hampers Wood and Lantern Wood, then picking up the faint uphill trod by the wall and passing the disused quarry before turning right at the top and following the wall round to the summit of Higher Moor at 402 metres. Quietly situated

there is a viewfinder donated by the local Monkhouse family, which made a handy coffee stop.

We continued through patches of ice flakes blown off trees and fences, and at Bowstonegate turned right to make a careful descent by the icy path towards Knights Low To our delight, dozens of deer were feeding close

by in the thick mist, almost undeterred by our passage. We turned left into the woods and followed round to the edge path above Cluse Hay, where mixed tree planting is transforming the upper Poynton Brook valley, A loop took us back to restored Keepers Cottage and the gentle ridge by Pursefield Wood, to take steps down to the West car park and the easy amble back to the Hall.

It had been a different sort of day, with the all-pervading mist shrouding views, but giving us an atmospheric detached and quiet walk, much on firm grass paths, with only occasional dog walkers around. Most then headed happily home, with just a few finishing off with a lunchtime carvery.

Walter Mason

Walk Report Wednesday 31st Jan 2018



The walking group's 2nd January walk on the 31st Jan led by Sam and Irene Chappell began in Hayfield Village on a fine breezy morning that was to change as we made our way up onto Middlemoor.

18 walkers turned out for the walk that took us alongside the River Kinder on Kinder Road then on a path past Bowden Bridge and up to the information board overlooking Kinder Reservoir for our coffee stop. The views from here looking over the reservoir and up to a snow speckled Kinder Downfall were impressive.

The next stage of the walk involved a steep but short climb upon to Middlemoor with the views becoming even better as we gained height to join the Snake Path and our route back to Hayfield. Shortly the weather took a turn for the worst and visibility became much reduced as we experienced a painful but exhilarating icy snow storm, blown along by a blustery northwesterly wind.



Safely back in Hayfield nine walkers enjoyed the warmth and hospitality of the Royal Hotel where we were served some good food quickly and efficiently.

Sam and Irene Chappell

Walk Report Wednesday 21st February 2018



Merlyn & Joyce led a five mile (Transport Trek) walk from Furness Vale to the Dipping stones.

Despite the cold winter weather of recent weeks we were blessed with a fine, sunny day for the 32 walkers who joined the February walk.

Our starting point was Furness Vale. The route followed Furness Clough passing small and large houses from our industrial past as we ascended to Diglee Farm and then

Whaley Moor. Merlyn gave a historical picture of "Furnace" the original name of "Furness Vale" from 1690 and the rich industrial past from iron smelting, Calico Printing, Coal Mines, and Fire Brick kilns. Rapid

development occurring between 1796 to 1804 following construction of the Peak Forest canal, A6 turnpike Road and railway in 1831.

We stopped to admire the three Australian named Bungalows built by Knowles Barton (coal mine and brick furnace owner from 1905) on land where pit ponies used to graze. Nearby we stopped at a small white gate and an oil pipeline sign known locally as the "village Secret." Joyce gave the history of the pipeline and its installation linking ports and airfields for supply under invasion conditions.

Following a group photo at the Dipping Stones we had a coffee stop and then admired the panoramic view of the Dark and White Peak hills. Our mountain conquered, the descent involved a tricky stile and boggy ground leading to Start Lane. Descent to Toddbrook Reservoir was through Slatersbank Wood with early signs of spring snowdrops and occasional sections of mud. We walked over the dam wall, through the park alongside the river Goyt to our "surprised lunch stop."

Lunch was taken in the restored Victorian waiting room at Whaley Bridge station, thanks to Brian and Alison Allerton. Over lunch Brian gave a historical talk on the station and his passion and dedication in leading the team and obtaining funding for the building restoration was much appreciated by the group.

The last stretch of the "transport trek" was along the Peak Forest Canal to Furness Vale just in time to catch the 199 bus back. David thanked Joyce and Merlyn on behalf of the group for a great walk.

Merlyn & Joyce Young