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This time last year we had snow on the ground. This year we have recently enjoyed a week of warm sunny weather and it is good to see that Spring flowers are well advanced. Pity about the expected storm Freya!

MEMBERSHIP

Membership was due for renewal at the February meeting. If you have not yet renewed your membership there is a membership renewal form and instructions on the website. Please write clearly so we can read your name and email address and make sure you complete both sides of the form.

The membership fee is still at the remarkably good value of £6 and for an extra £2.50 you can receive the next five issues of the Third Age Magazine delivered to your door.

With your Membership card, you will also receive an Emergency card which you should complete and take with you to all your U3A group meetings so that assistance can be organised without delay if required.

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

The up to date accounts and reports are now available on the Charities Commission website <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission>

Click on "Find a charity" and in Charity Search, type either High Lane U3A or 1091296. There you will find the Committee Report, Checkers report and the 2018 Accounts.

If you have any questions, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Les Birks

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 2019 edition. Please get your contributions to me by Friday 27 April 2018.



Name _____

In Case of Emergency Contact: _____

1. _____

Tel: _____

2. _____

Tel: _____

MONTHLY MEETINGS

JANUARY MEETING: WINTER WATCH

The first meeting of the year took place on Wednesday 10th January. To a large audience, David Taylor accompanied by his wife, Ann, showed us the amazing diversity of birds and other wildlife that visit their 55 acre farm in Marton near Macclesfield. After giving up dairy farming they created three 2.5 acre lakes and transformed their farm into a wildlife sanctuary. Fishing, birdwatching and photography can be arranged.

Also at this meeting Richard from the High Lane Neighbourhood Forum talked about their current plans and projects. They currently have four working groups: transport, housing, greenspace and heritage. Volunteers are welcome and local people are invited to share their opinion. Find out more at <http://www.hlvnf.org/>

AGM

The AGM was, as usual, very well attended with 162 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 2019. We then enjoyed some entertaining reports from the Group Leaders.

The Officers and Committee for 2019 are

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

Committee Members: Pam Andrew, Lynne Arnold, Maureen Christian, Linda Dale, Sue Harlin, Barbara Kenneth, Trevor Kinvig, Andre Lister, Margaret McDermott, Diane Saxon, 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.

1000 MILE WALKING MEDAL



At the start of 2018, High Lane U3A Walking Group member Jeff Robinson resolved to walk 1000 miles during the year. Jeff completed 1000 miles at Angle Tarn in the Lake District on 19/11/2018. He has been awarded a medal and certificate by Country Walking Magazine. Jeff's achievement follows in the footsteps of Merlyn Young who was awarded his 1000 mile medal in 2017.

Many congratulations to both of them. Any entrants for 2019?

David Burke

BEGINNERS BRIDGE GROUP

We are pleased that the bridge sessions that Steve and John ran for members wishing to learn bridge during 2018 have enabled members to join our thriving bridge groups. After recent requests for a repeat we have started a new list. We need to have at least eight to make this viable so if you would like to learn bridge please let me know.

Diane Saxon

ANNUAL LUNCH

This year's Annual Lunch will be on Thursday, 7 March 2019.

As last year we are going to the Alma Lodge hotel. There is a good choice of dishes on the menu. Tickets cost £22 including a gratuity.

TELEPHONE SCAMS

The last few months we have been plagued with calls purporting to be from BTinternet saying your internet connection will be cut off. This is an automated call using a recorded message although the voices they use can be different. This has nothing to do with BT. Checking using 1471 is no help because the scammers use software that can change the number each time they call.

If you respond, then they know there is a real person on the end and will add you to a "suckers" list, and you will get even more calls, so just hang up and do not speak, or press any buttons.

They will also try to extract personal information from you.

TRAVEL/HOMESTAY FOR OVER 50s

The Freebird Club is a social travel & home-stay club for the over 50's. It is a 'peer-to-peer' club, which enables members to travel and stay with fellow member hosts, who have opted to make their spare rooms available for nightly rent.

To travel or host via Freebird, you first have to become an approved member of The Freebird Club. There is a once-off Joining Fee which helps cover the costs of vetting and approving members. This 'pay-to-join' membership model also serves to ensure that only genuinely interested people, who subscribe to the Freebird ethos, will go on to join the Club. This enhances the sense of trust, security and community, which is so important for our membership.

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

Ed: I tried a search for Canada in the summer and found 10 possible hosts!

HUMOUR CORNER – just space for a limerick

I'm really determined and keen,
 To start giving this house a spring clean.
 I will do it I say,
 Yes, I'll do it today,
 Well, I'll do it tomorrow, I mean.

U3A NATIONAL CHESS BY EMAIL

Just two years into the formation of the U3A National Chess by email, there are 57 members from 54 different UK U3As playing chess with one another by email.



How does it work? It operates via a page in the members' area of the national website (www.u3a.org.uk) and holds the following information about each member: name, grade, U3A, short chess profile, preferred speed of play and email address. Any member can request a game and moves are exchanged by email; as simple as that.

There is no limit to the number of members that can join; the more the merrier! The wide range of grades of player on the 'Players List' means that anyone from a recent learner to a county player can find someone of their own level to play.

For full information, including how you might decide on your grade, email Dick Chapman, of Watford and District U3A, at dick.chapman@ntlworld.com

The incredible Wizard of Oz,
 Retired from his business because,
 Due to up-to-date science,
 To most of his clients,
 He wasn't the Wizard he was.

LONELINESS INITIATIVES

A recent U3A research report 'Learning not Lonely: Living Life, Extending Horizons, Challenging Conventions' (2018) highlighted the issue of loneliness and how U3As are helping combat this. The research was featured in an article in the Telegraph's Later Life supplement in December. You can read the report on the U3A website at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/about/news-archive/408-u3a-publishes-impact-report-learningnotlonely>

What is being done to help?

A small study carried out by McCarthy and Stone found that using social networking sites, going for walks and joining dating websites are among the ways over-65s are combating loneliness.

A survey of 1,000 pensioners showed 53 per cent often felt lonely, particularly when they were home alone. But the majority were trying hard to overcome this and stay connected with the outside world.

In total, seven in 10 respondents have taken to Facebook in a bid to stay in touch with friends and family and a further one in 10 had started dating again.

Four in ten have made a concerted effort to volunteer within the local community, while 38 per cent go for walks and 28 per cent listen to the radio.

Government's first loneliness strategy

Published 15 October 2018

'Loneliness is one of the greatest public health challenges of our time', Theresa May said today as she launched the first cross-Government strategy to tackle it.

The Prime Minister confirmed all GPs in England will be able to refer patients experiencing loneliness to community activities and voluntary services by 2023. Three quarters of GPs surveyed have said they are seeing between one and five people a day suffering with loneliness, which is linked to a range of damaging health impacts, like heart disease, strokes and Alzheimer's disease.

Around 200,000 older people have not had a conversation with a friend or relative in more than a month.

The practice known as 'social prescribing' will allow GPs to direct patients to community workers offering tailored support to help people improve their health and wellbeing, instead of defaulting to medicine. As part of the long-term plan for the NHS, funding will be provided to connect patients to a variety of activities, such as cookery classes, walking clubs and art groups, reducing demand on the NHS and improving patients' quality of life.

Up to a fifth of all UK adults feel lonely most or all of the time and with evidence showing loneliness can be as bad for health as obesity or smoking, the Prime Minister has also announced the first ever 'Employer Pledge' to tackle loneliness in the workplace.

A network of high-profile businesses – including Sainsbury's, Transport for London, Co-op, British Red Cross, National Grid and the Civil Service – have pledged to take further action to support their employees' health and social wellbeing.

The Government will also partner with the Royal Mail on a new scheme in Liverpool, New Malden and Whitby which will see postal workers check up on lonely people as part of their usual delivery rounds. Postal workers will be speaking with isolated people to help link them up with support from their families or communities if required.

The Prime Minister also confirmed £1.8m to increase the number of community spaces available – the funding will be used to transform underutilised areas, such as creating new community cafes, art spaces or gardens.

This new funding builds on £20m announced in June to help charities and community groups expand their programmes which bring people together to benefit communities.

You can read the paper here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-connected-society-a-strategy-for-tackling-loneliness>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

OUR U3A ACTIVITIES

7 March	Annual Lunch. Alma Lodge Hotel. £22
13 March	What on earth does an airport chaplain do all day? Rev George Lane
10 April	Advances in cardiac surgery. Professor Bernard Loveday

FORTHCOMING TRAVEL GROUP EVENTS

Contact: Margaret McDermott or Ruth Smith

23-27 May 2019	GLOUCESTER 4 nights Half board at Hallmark Hotel. £349. Balance at March meeting.
May	Day visit to BROWSHOLME HALL near Clitheroe. Date to be arranged
June	Day visit to WEDGWOOD. Date to be arranged.
6 July	BUXTON MILITARY TATTOO £19
15-21 July	SOMERSET 5 nights Half board at Swan Hotel Wells. Balance at March meeting.
25-29 August	IRELAND. Ireland's Ancient East - Wicklow Mountains 4 nights HB at Arklow Bay Hotel. Flight from Manchester to Dublin Approx. £570 dependent on numbers. Single supplement £67 Possible visits to Malahide Castle, Castletown House, Powerscourt Wicklow Mountains National Park and Glendalough Tour of Dublin
September	Day visit to PENRHYN CASTLE. Date to be arranged
3-10 Oct 2019	MEDIEVAL GERMANY River Cruise Mainz, Miltenberg, Wurzburg, Rothenburg, Bamberg, Nuremberg. Flight from Manchester to Munich. Balance at June meeting.

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL U3A EVENTS

11 March	U3A at the RI. An afternoon of talks: Plastic oceans; What made our universe and Living is a risky business. £21.50. Book via U3A National webiste.
21 March	Satire to Sublime: British Art from Hogarth to Turner. National Gallery, London. Find out how eighteenth and early nineteenth-century painters grappled with the rapid changes of life in eighteenth and nineteenth-century Britain.
30 April	Workshop Creative Thinking, Crewe Alexandra stadium An interactive workshop. Think outside the box. Explore different ways to be an involved and active learner. For details, see https://u3asites.org.uk/files/n/north-west/docs/creativethinkingflyer.pdf
27-30 Aug	Summer School. Newton Rigg Agricultural College. Last few placesavailable https://u3asites.org.uk/files/n/north-west/docs/ss19overviewv2.pdf

ART IN STOCKPORT March/April

9-16 March	The dark Earth and the light sky. Stockport Garrick
21 March	Tribute to Joni Mitchell. The Light cinema
30 March	Stockport Symphony Orchestra. Town Hall
30 March	Hazel Grove Orchestra. Wesley St Methodist Church
4 April	The King and I. The Light
11 April	All about Eve. NTLive. Various venues
17 April	As you Like it. RSC Live. Various venues

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GROUP REPORTS

art

What a year. We started the year with 14/15 people painting. Before long more people started coming through the door: some had never drawn or painted at all whilst some had painted at school and some said they knew what they were doing. When we got to the low thirties of numbers of prospective artists, I decided we must be full. I felt like the Pied Piper of Hamlyn, whoever he is: the sessions are great and so busy. I don't know if they are making me older or younger, but when I get home the first thing is a glass of red, a sit down and then think about what happened today. Brilliant.

This last year's art has altered totally; it's really good. Varied, bigger, braver - nobody is frightened of having a go at any subject, idea or medium. It's certainly challenging me; what do I know! We have had a couple of trips to galleries and talks given to us about art. One of our members, Mave, works at the Manchester Art Gallery and she invited us there; her talk about various artists was brilliant.

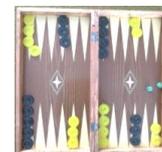
We have decided to show all of you and the High Laners what we do! We are going to have a late spring one day exhibition of our art on a Saturday in the big hall, when you will be able to buy our art - affordable of course. Choose your favourite painting of the day, have tea or coffee, cake or scone and maybe biscuits and talk to our members about what we do. Two of our members will be painting on the day showing you how it is done, plus you can have a go yourself.

WATCH THIS SPACE

Brian Chadwick

BACKGAMMON

The gestation period for the Backgammon group has been a long one, but at the last meeting, on the third Wednesday of February, we had eight players.



We meet at the Horseshoe pub, High Lane, at 14:00 hours, on the first and third Wednesdays of every month, emergencies excepted of course. Beginners (and experts if there are any) are welcome.

If you fancy a game, please let me know.

Ron Barrow

BALLET APPRECIATION

After eight years of hard work, producing some very instructive and entertaining programmes, Sheila has decided to stop running her groups.

Thank you, Sheila, and best wishes for the future.

3rd / 4th January:

At the previous meeting we had seen a documentary on how the Royal Ballet prepare for their annual seasonal performances of The Nutcracker. It concentrated on the work done preparing the large cast of students from the Royal Ballet School, and on Francesca Hayward – a young dancer playing the Sugar Plum Fairy for the first time. This time we watched The Royal Ballet performing The Nutcracker in 2016.

23rd Jan / 7th March:

We took a break in February but are now back on schedule. On the agenda for the above dates is the Royal Ballet in a stunning performance of The Sleeping Beauty from 2017.

At our next meetings we will take a look at some famous ballerinas from the past.

Meg Humphries

BALLROOM DANCING

Social ballroom dancing continues pleasantly, with some new Waltz steps demonstrated by Sam and Irene, and some Tango and Cha Cha by Walter.

Walter Mason

CHURCHES AND PUBS

The two churches booked so far this year are:

April 3rd St. Edwards at Cheddleton near Leek.

July 3rd. St. John's at High Legh near Mere.

The April visit is nearly full and we are taking names for July.

Paul and Barbara Kenneth

CINEMA

Stan and Ollie

This was a bitter sweet film about the comedy duo adapting to changing times and retirement. It was beautifully acted and filmed and enjoyed by all.

The Favourite

Hardly a favourite with our members who found it too graphic, difficult to follow and rather weird. See the film yourself and make up your own mind

The Book Shop

This film was shown at the Plaza and was a "first" for us. Shown at 11.00 in the morning and with a tasty lunch afterwards, it was a sure fire hit. Oh and the film was most enjoyable too. We intend to repeat the experience with "Tulip Fever " on 14th March.

Sheila Harrop

CURRENT AFFAIRS

January meeting

Our first meeting of 2019 started with a question about whether the voting age should be lowered to 16. The first response was a definite NO.

However after some discussion it was pointed out that some 16 year olds study politics for A levels whereas many older people have less knowledge than younger ones and in the end opinions were divided.

We next talked about Chris Grayling's effort to reorganise the traffic in Kent by lining up lorries on the road, each of these being paid over £500 to take part. Unanimously we thought this had been a ridiculous idea.

The Health Minister has announced a 10 year plan for the NHS to focus on prevention and early diagnosis. As £400 million annually is spent on face to face consultations, online digital consultations would be a way of making a big saving. Three people were in favour of this, four against.

Another medical question was asked. This was whether we thought that a Doctor should have the right to help people die when there was no hope for the patient. The answer was a unanimous yes.

Is it right that judges should be compelled to retire at the age of 70? On the whole we felt that they should.

Apparently about 1.4 million euros are thrown into the Trevi fountain in Rome each year and up to now the Church has used this money to help the poor but it is now suggested that the State should keep it. We decided the Church should continue to keep it so long as it was used for charity.

The Speaker, John Bercow, wants to give Backbenchers more power. Do we agree? We did.

As the Government lost the deal for Theresa May's Brexit plan we were asked to explain why she was still pushing for this deal. We had no idea.

Brexit had now reared its ugly head and we launched into a heated free for all about this perennial subject which developed into somewhat of a shouting match! All very good humoured I have to say.

Pat Gorie

February Meeting

Issues discussed include -

1. Should the young girl aged 15 who left UK to be an Isis bride now at the age of 19 and with a new baby be allowed back into the UK?

Consensus was with a British passport it is the law she must be allowed back into the UK and she could not be declared stateless. However the UK state should not pay for her return. It was also agreed the media was making a big issue of this bigger than it merited. (Events have now moved on and it could be the girl has dual nationality with Pakistan until this is clarified she will remain in Libya - this could take up to two years)

2. What is the opinion of the group to the news that the UK is sending a new Aircraft Carrier to the Pacific Ocean into a region China asserts is its territory. The group thought this was not a good move that it was provocative would escalate the situation. Also there was a question as to how many aircraft the carrier has on board – not many and most were from the USA.

3. Pupils from around the UK went on strike for a day to call on the government to declare a climate emergency and take action to tackle the problem. The group were in agreement this was acceptable and was a good thing to do.

4. The group considered the question - was Churchill a hero nor villain? After discussion there was a split decision three said yes he was a hero the other three saying he wasn't. However we all agreed it was ambiguous question question without a clear cut answer.

5. The government is looking at changes to pensioners free T/V licences and bus passes in an effort to save public money. Presently the government reimburses the BBC for free T/V licences and local councils pay the bus companies for journeys using the bus pass bus pass. After discussion the group agreed a solution would be to raise the eligible age to 80 and leave all else unchanged – i.e. the government reimburses the BBC for free T/V licences and local councils pay for free bus pass journeys.

6. Are GCSEs obsolete? There was no overall consensus on this question though it was agreed there was too much focus and pressure on pupils for good exam results.

7, Should mobile phones be banned from schools? There was general discussion on this issue without a final decision. At the moment schools are free to set their own rules so some schools have a complete ban whilst some ban them only in lesson time but not in break time. Some parents like the idea so they can contact their children if they need to. One of the main objectives of schools is to give children life skills which includes mobile phone use so there is no clear answer to this question.

8. The proposition is raised 'that hate crime and racism' has increased significantly in recent years and the prime minister Teresa May is to blame. We all agreed the figures do show a considerable increase in recent years but this is more likely due to the aftermath of the Brexit result and terrorist attacks like Westminster London Bridge and Manchester arena and is not due to Teresa May.

9. We considered the proposal made by the TUC that with the advances in technology, particularly in artificial intelligence, workers could have a four day week without loss of pay and at the same time productivity can be increased as has been seen in New Zealand and Sweden. We all agreed this proposal and that it would be a win win all round.

Trevor Kinvig

GARDENING



The gardening year started on a good note with a meal at the Deanwater Hotel, followed by a trip to Abbeywood Gardens, near Delamere. Not as many snowdrops as some places, but loads of well established Hellebores, some rare iris clumps, and many unusual shrubs with winter flowers or colourful stems, even a flowering rhododendron! With the pleasant cafe and interesting garden design, it made for a lovely trip.

Walter Mason

GERMAN

We are still going strong with an average of nine at each meeting. With so many depressing news stories in recent weeks, we have sought solace in a collection of funny stories from the internet. Yes, the Germans do have a sense of humour, but the jokes lose a little in translation.

We have been hearing members' accounts of recent holidays, to Bayreuth, Berlin and Yorkshire and we look forward to Barry Meakin's account of his two month trip to New Zealand when he returns in March. Yesterday I received a large postcard account of his trip so far written in immaculate German which I will share with the group at our next meeting.

Marlene Brookes

HISTORY

At this meeting three group members gave short presentations.

Shirley Boore presented Pope Gregory I, Barbara Farmer presented Frederick Sanger and Pam Curley presented the Duke of Wellington and as always it provoked a lot of interesting discussion, often raising the issue of how little we know about things!

At the February meeting, Kath Wareham did an interesting presentation on the history of the Oxford English Dictionary. The First Edition was published in 1929 after 70 years of exacting research.

The idea of compiling a completely new dictionary came from members of The Philological Society. The most important editor was James Murray who presided over proceedings in his Scriptorium and who wrote thousands of perfect definitions. There were many volunteer readers who provided the illustrative quotations which dated the use of each word. J.R. Tolkien was one of these. The work continues today and the Revised Third Edition is expected to be published in 2037.

Pam Curley

OPERA APPRECIATION

2nd /14th January.

We watched The Royal Opera performing Turandot. This is Puccini's last opera. He died before it was complete and it was finished by Alfano – I personally think it tails off a bit towards the end. This was an enchanting production, making great use of Chinese masks and Tai Chi style dancing.

6th / 11th February.

On the agenda was The Marriage of Figaro from Glyndebourne. This was the performance which opened the new opera house in 1994. It is a very bright and sparkling production.

At our next meeting, we will stay at Glyndebourne for a performance of Handel's Rinaldo.

Meg Humphries

PHILOSOPHY

ST AUGUSTINE, PETER ABELARD AND THOMAS AQUINAS:

Lots to discuss! Abelard's life seemed most sensational so we rather lost track of his philosophical views. Aquinas had some very 'modern' views about the length of the universe and our place in it, though he didn't believe what he often espoused because it didn't conform to church doctrine. That really was sitting on the fence!

DESCARTE

"I doubt therefore I think, therefore I am". We all agreed we were all here considering how much doubting we all did. He had to move 24 times in the apparently 'safe' Netherlands to escape the thought police. We recognised that thinking back to basics did inspire a sort of clear-out of your thinking. The premise that God also emphatically existed because he was perfect and something perfect must exist lead to a lot of debate. February: Spinoza and Leibniz

The philosophy group is getting bigger! We learned the difference between the rationalists and the empiricists and exchanged views on just what philosophers do. Spinoza attracted most of our attention; his pantheism got him into a lot of trouble in his time. His notion of reality being both mental and physical at the same time seemed strangely akin to modern particle physics, with the oddity of matter being both particle and wave. Leibniz also seemed prophetic with his emphasis on the monad.

Both philosophers' adherence to there being no free choice, yet perfectly equipping us to cope with whatever life threw at us merited a lot of deeper discussion.

Julia Curtis

PHOTOGRAPHY

The results of January competition "Bridges" were:

1. Derek - Knaresborough,
- 2= Walter – Prague (Charles Bridge) and Jeff – Bourton-on-the-Water
3. Walter – Giethoorn (Holland).



Our next competition in March is "Pubs"! Walter Mason

QUIZ GROUP

We continue to meet monthly on the fourth Thursday of the month. A team from the group also took part in the recent quiz at St. Thomas' church.

Our first meeting of the year was a quiz set by Jean and Ron. We spent a pleasurable morning answering questions in various categories, trying to locate and name all the counties of Europe and disentangling anagrams of nursery rhymes; accompanied by delicious cakes and biscuits.

At our February meeting, quizmaster Monica had some challenging questions for us to try. Do you know what caprine means?; what a caracal is?; what the obelisk typographical symbol looks like? And what it signifies? As ever, good fun, tasty refreshments and lots of learning – if only we could remember what we learn!

A few random questions for you to ponder:

- Whose alter ego was Daryl Walters?
- Who invented the microwave oven?
- Why is New York called the Big Apple?
- What would happen if bees died out?

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

Diane Saxon

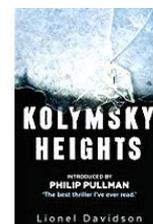
READING

This group meets on the first Monday of each month and has proved to be very enjoyable with a varied selection of books.

In January, we discussed HIDDEN LIVES by Margaret Forster, which told the story of women in the 20th century through the life stories of her grandmother, mother and aunts and herself. This gave us an opportunity to discuss how far we have come and compare our own families' experiences.

In February, our book was THE ABSOLUTIST by John Boyne, a profoundly moving book about the experiences of two young men in the First World War which dealt, not only with the horror of the conditions and experiences of the soldiers, but also the personal conflicts of two young men, tormented by their own sexuality.

Our book for March is KOLYMSKI HEIGHTS by Lionel Davidson, a very unusual thriller with recommendations by John Le Carre and Philip Pullman; well worth sticking with because of its nail-bitingly exciting ending.



In April we are having a session where members can bring along their favourite poems for reading and discussing. Some non-members of the group have expressed an interest in this, so if you would like to attend, please let me know, as we shall have to limit numbers.

Marlene Brookes

TRIVIAL PURSUIT

The Trivial Pursuit group continues to be well attended and we have some very interesting and convivial evenings. We gather on Saturdays at 7 pm, at intervals of six weeks. As we have had to limit the membership because we meet in group members houses, we do have a waiting list, so if you want to play, please let me know and we will see what happens.



Ron Barrow

WALKING

Walk report – Tuesday 8th January 2019



Unusually, today's walk started and ended at the Village Hall, with a pub lunch included. Jeff Mortimer led thirteen of us through High Lane village to pick up a footpath at the Woodside Tennis Club. We then walked by the primary school and recreation ground to cross the railway line and pick up the Goyt Way footpath. This took us by Elmerhurst Cottage and then along a track towards Platt Wood Farm. Here we took a climbing path to enter Lyme Park over a ladder stile. Crossing the west edge of Lyme Park revealed lovely views of Manchester and the Cheshire Plain.



We left Lyme park at West Parkgate and then traversed some fields to pass near Keeper's Cottage and then on to Birchenclyff, which is an unusual hamlet, now converted to holiday lets. After this we proceeded along Shrigley Road to pick up a path at Harrop Brow, passing Lockgate Farm and then on to Middlewood Way.

At the site of the old Higher Poynton station some of us ate a packed lunch while most of us went to the nearby Boar's Head and enjoyed a pub lunch and some liquid refreshment.

After lunch it was simply a leisurely walk along the canal towing path to the Bull's Head in High Lane and then back to the Village Hall.

Jeff Mortimer

Walk Report - Wednesday 30th January

There had been heavy snow overnight so only five of us turned up at the Village Hall car-park.



The walk was to be led by Rick Hedley who had planned to start and finish at Hague Bar car-park near New Mills. However as the road there was steep and winding and would probably be covered in ice, we decided to postpone that walk, and instead start and finish in High Lane.

Most of this walk was along the canal tow-paths. Initially along the Macclesfield Canal to Marple where we stopped for coffee and photos. We then followed the Peak Forest Canal south crossing a bridge to take a path through Stanleyhall Wood to pick up a track to Lea Cote Farm. Here we followed footpaths across fields to Windlehurst Hall flats, then along a path adjacent to the canal to emerge at Andrew Lane where we again found the Macclesfield Canal tow-path.

We continued under the A6 to the Bull's Head, where we enjoyed a welcome pub lunch and drinks.

Jeff Mortimer