

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the March 2022 edition of the High Lane U3A newsletter. According to the powers that be, Covid is no longer a problem, but has been rapidly replaced by something else to worry about. Masks were few and far between at Handforth Dean today. The spring flowers are looking good and maybe it will stop raining soon.

Notable items in this edition include a report on the recent Travel group visit to Chester, updates on the holidays planned for this year, group news plus some interesting items from members.

As with the previous editions, this newsletter will be available only by email and on the web. This edition is accompanied by the National Office February bitesize newsletter.

Please feel free to share some of your news, your interests, items you have found that you think would be of interest to other members, places you have visited, books you have read, films you have seen; your recipes, limericks; the list is endless. We'd love to hear from some of our new members. Please can I also repeat my invitation for members to send me pictures of our local areas for the video we are planning to showcase our u3a.

The next main issue will be April 2022 so please send your contributions to me by 27 March at newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk

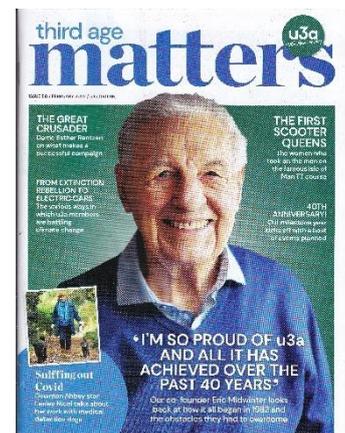
Diane Saxon



u3a MAGAZINE third age matters

It is now time for us to update our database of magazine recipients. If you would like to subscribe to the magazine – this is just £3.50 for the next five issues sent direct to your address – and haven't yet done so, please get your £3.50 to Les or Margaret without delay so we can get your name on the list for the Spring edition.

The magazine always has lots of information about what u3a groups are doing. The current (February) edition has information about 40th anniversary events.



AGM

The AGM took place on Wednesday 9th February 2022 in the Village Hall.

As membership renewal was included for those who had renewed for last year the turnout was encouraging. Reports were read out, with as usual an entertaining one from our treasurer. Reports were also read out from most of the group leaders.

The Officers and Committee members for 2022–2023 are as follows.

Officers

Chairman	Paul Kenneth
Vice Chair	Linda Dale
Secretary	Lynn Arnold
Treasurer	Les Birks
Membership Secretary	Margaret McDermott

Committee Members

Sue Harlin	Almoner
Diane Saxon	Newsletter editor
Trevor Kinvig	
Andre Lister	
Barbara Kenneth	
Pam Curley	
Dorothy Neillands	
Kath Wareham	

Sheila Harrop has stepped down this year and we thank her for all her hard work over the years.

Paul Kenneth
Chairman

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE, MEETINGS AND GROUPS LIST

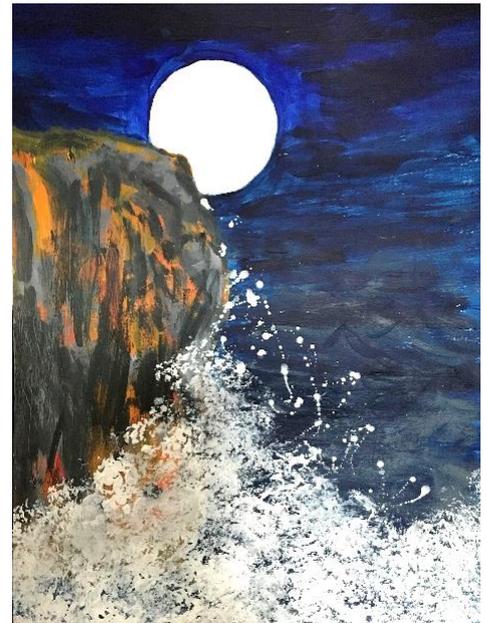
Following the AGM, this list has now been updated with the Officers and Committee for 2022, the programme of speakers and what we think are the current groups that are running, the venues where they meet and the contact details of the group leaders. Your copy is being circulated with this edition of the newsletter. Please keep this somewhere safe.

GROUP NEWS

ART

I took this idea from a fabulous painting that Brian, our Group Leader did several years ago. Brian is always encouraging us to be brave and bold with our painting, so with his guidance and inspiration this was the result.

Betty Smith



CURRENT AFFAIRS

The Current Affairs group meets once a month to discuss items in the news. This month five members met and the first item up for discussion was the "Sub Post Office Scandal"- Who is to blame, who will pay any compensation. Discussion indicated it is too long ago to lay the blame at any person in particular and probably the Sub Post Offices Department of "The Post Office" will pay any compensation due.

Next issue discussed - Should the West support Ukraine against Russia in current dispute. General opinion was because this issue is now resolved between the two parties, the West should not get involved.

We went on to discuss generally - do we get "Fake News or False from the media?" Our discussions then became more political (which usually happens!) and the name of Jacob Rees Mogg, Minister for European Opportunities, came up and he was generally derided. Then we discussed Ireland North and South and the current film now in the cinemas "Belfast." The best thing in the film was the 5year old little blond boy and his smile which brought a smile to us all.

Other issues discussed included - Food Banks - Governor of The Bank of England - Energy Companies (should they be nationalise answer yes!) Also, we felt that public transport should be nationalised.

We then moved onto the big issue of the moment "Prince Andrew" and we said that such things as he has been involved in have always gone on. The names of Camilla Parker Bowles Prince Charles and the Duke of Edinburgh were mentioned to name just a few. So most of us thought yes Prince Andrew was guilty but so what? And it has always gone on.

The next issue is – are the government correct to lift the face mask rule? We agreed yes with the exception of public transport and on aircraft flights because the air in aircraft is recirculated during the duration of the flight.

After the discussions as above were finished, our host Margaret, as always, provided us with cups of tea coffee, cake and biscuits which is always well received.

The current affairs group meets once a month on a Wednesday afternoon.

Trevor Kinvig

CHURCHES AND PUBS

We hope to start with the first visit of the year in May.

Paul Kenneth

INDOOR KURLING

There will be a meeting for Kurling after March's u3a meeting in the small hall for those still interested in playing and anyone who would like to play.

Paul Kenneth

MEMOIRS

There is a lot of enthusiasm in the group and we all enjoy going down "Memory Lane" and hopefully preparing a memoir which future generations can enjoy. Sharing experiences often sparks off ideas in other members.

At the moment the group is full but please contact me if you are interested and wish to join the waiting list.

Sheila Harrop

HISTORY

The History group met as usual on the last Wednesday of the month. The talk given by Kath Wareham was on The Irish Potato famine. This started in 1845 when the potato crop was destroyed and over a million poor people died over the following five years. Many of those who initially survived went into workhouses or migrated to America and Britain. The response of the British Government was underwhelming and ultimately led to the ongoing political unrest between the two countries.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 23rd March.

Kath Wareham

CINEMA

This month we have a couple of reviews of recent films from members of the group.

Belfast

Several of our members have been to see the film Belfast. It is beautifully written and directed by Kenneth Branagh based on his own experience of growing up in the city. It features a working-class family living in North Belfast in a street of terraced houses where Protestants and Catholics had previously lived peaceably together until 1969 and really brought home the horrors of The Troubles and the resilience of the Irish people. One of the main causes of the unrest was the anti-Catholic discrimination in employment and housing.



irishnews.com

The main characters are Buddy (Jude Hall), Pa (Jamie Dornan), Ma (Catriona Balfe), Granny (Judi Dench) and Pop (Ciaran Hinds) who live together in the same house. As the situation becomes increasingly dangerous the family has to decide whether to leave Belfast and move to England where Pa already has a job. Buddy, a nine-year old child, who has a wonderfully expressive face, does not want to go to England. He says "they will not be able to understand me". Those of us who have visited Ireland with the Travel Group know the problem!

Buddy has a major crush on one of the girls in his class who is a Catholic and often brings her flowers, another reason not to leave. Eventually they decide to leave Belfast but before they do Pop falls ill and dies, leaving Granny to live alone when they go. The wake after Pop's funeral is an eye-opener; it shows a real celebration of life rather than the sadness of death.

We thoroughly enjoyed this film and recommend it to all our members.

Margaret McDermott

Death on the Nile

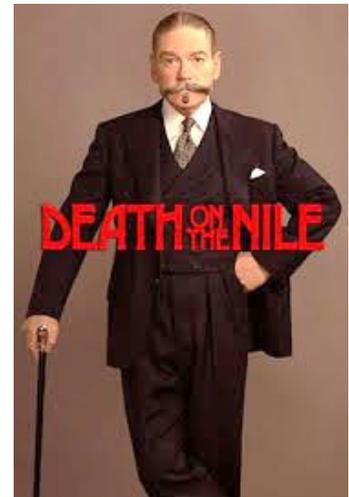
Members have also been to the Light to see the long-awaited release of Branagh's version of Death on the Nile, starring Kenneth Branagh, Arnie Hammer, Gal Gadot supported by Russell Brand, Jennifer Saunders and Dawn French.

Each adaptation seems to get a bit further away from the book. In this one, the main plot is the same but there are characters who do not appear in the book. The book is set in Egypt on a luxurious river cruise, where a murder is committed on board. The 2004 David Suchet version made by ITV is probably the nearest to the book. You can watch this on ITV Hub and online.

Originally, the film was planned to be shot in Morocco but instead was largely filmed in a studio in Surrey with some background shots taken in Morocco and Egypt. Amazingly, the studio team recreated a luxury hotel, the boat, pyramids and the Abu Simbel temples. Outside scenes were filmed at the Cotswold Water Park Nature Reserve near Swindon, and Cleveland Lakes stood in for the Nile. They all certainly looked the part.

The film is well done, very glamorous and good entertainment. We would recommend it.

Diane Saxon



Allmovie.com

GARDENING

The gardening group started its season with a very pleasant meal at the Deanwater. The group now has a comprehensive programme of visits planned to members' gardens, and a few public gardens. After a soggy February with flower beds looking unhappy, we hope for some drying winds and some sunshine on our garden visit days.

Some members' pictures are below, which suggest that Spring is on the way.



Walter Mason

PHILOSOPHY

The topic for our February meeting was "Logical Positivism". The leader of the discussion was Ian Montgomery who talked us through the three basic principles, which are

1. Truth based on a deduction of reason
2. statements which are true by means of induction
3. metaphysical or value judgements.

A lively discussion followed which sparked several ideas for future consideration.

The topic for the next session is "The Philosophy of Pragmatism"

Sheila Harrop

QUIZZING

Quiz group members met on their usual date of the fourth Thursday in February for their session of brain torture.

The quiz was set by Irene this month and was no exception with members desperately trying to remember things long forgotten. Cake and macaroons provided a brief interlude but even those were accompanied by anagrams to unravel and cryptic clues to boats and trains.

A few for you to try:

- Awdry's famous creation
- Clipper twice damaged by fire
- Well she did eventually!
- Should one duck when it goes by?
- Father's early transatlantic liner?

New quizzers are welcome. Please contact me if you would like to join us.

Diane Saxon

Answers are on page 17.

PHOTOGRAPHY

This month's competition was **Transport**.

Three photos shared the first prize. Walter, Jeff and Diane.

100 years and still going strong – Walter



This one should go down well – Jeff



Vintage Tram Milan – Diane



Thanks for all your entries. Well done everybody.

The topic for next month is Wood – but not trees.

Jeff Robinson

WALKING

Walking Group Report for 23th February 2022 – Alderley Edge

After days of bad weather, 21 of us walked for 5 miles in dry, almost sunny (at times) weather. Following a good path to sandstone outcrop – with great views, then on to the Beacon dating back to the Spanish Armada. (Paths still in good state) – on to the Wizards Well. Gently uphill, behind houses, onto the main road. Picking up another path opening on to NT field – the mud at this point proving to be a trial!! Coffee needed – so on to Artists Lane and some seating.....

Backtrack up the lane and along a path leading to Bradford Lane, all cobbled, then a bridleway – all in good condition until reaching Hayman’s Farm. We edged round a wood, crossed a large field, coming out close to a lovely house. From this point we stayed on the quiet road arriving back at the carpark.

Several stayed to have lunch on the picnic tables before setting off home.

Steve and Sandra Barber

TRAVEL

Chester Visit 25 February

On Friday, the 25th of February, U3A members and others piled onto the Coach that was waiting on the Community Centre car park. We left the car park at 9.30am. Our destination was Chester Cathedral to see a wonderful display of art (Threads through Creation) by artist Jackie Parkinson.

This vibrant display is made up of 12 very large silk panels. The panels tell the story of the creation from the very beginning of the Bible. It's a combination of hand dyed materials, metallic leathers and gold leaf and it took eight million stitches to create. The panels are dazzling and lustrous and made the most amazing display in the much loved, famous cathedral.



Particular attention was paid to panel 9. It was titled DANGER A SNAKE IN THE GARDEN. Part of the write up stated 'In the guise of a very alluring snake, Satan has brought his evil to invade and corrupt a perfect world and so here he is' - we agreed with Margaret McDermott when she said 'Shades of Putin come to mind'

We visited the gift shop and had coffee in the Refectory Cafe which is set in the 13th century monks' dining hall. There was some free time left for lunch and in the afternoon people wondered off for a look around the shops.



Many thanks to Pat Gorie for organising such an enjoyable and unusual trip. May we have lots more.

Betty Smith

2022 HOLIDAYS AND VISITS

KENT June 12th–17th

Half Board at Mercure Great Danes Hotel Maidstone

£ 575 sharing. Single supp. £150

Visits to Chatham, Canterbury Cathedral, Battle of Britain Museum, Leeds Castle, Kent and East Sussex Railway, Sissinghurst and Chartwell

A FEW PLACES LEFT ON THIS HOLIDAY.

BALANCE AT APRIL MEETING

RHINE CRUISE August 9th–16th

Travel insurance details required. Check Passport–You need 9 years and 6 months left from date of issue.

BALANCE AT APRIL MEETING

IRELAND September 4th–8th

Half Board at Ashe Hotel Tralee Flight from Manchester to Cork.

£705 sharing. Single supp £89.

Information on places to visit later.

DEPOSIT £165 IN MARCH

LINCOLN October 14th–17th

Half board at Holiday Inn Lincoln

£ 295 sharing. Single supp. £90 Not including entrance fees.

DEPOSIT £50 AT MAY MEETING



DAY VISIT LIVERPOOL July 20th

RHS BRIDGEWATER Sometime in June

TRADES LIST

Previous members will be aware that we produced a list of recommended trades persons. We suspect this may be out of date and would welcome recommendations from members.

Please send these to Paul Kenneth but please make sure you get their permission to be on our list.

My (brief) Claim to Fame

"Hi, TV star!". This was the email I received a few weeks ago, from my friend Margaret, the day I took part in a charity walk. It was a cold blustery day on the New Brighton promenade. 50 mph winds had been forecast, but we were determined to go ahead with the walk.



The reason is that my middle daughter, Jenny, age 56, was diagnosed with stage 4 incurable pancreatic cancer last May. She was given up to 12 months to live, maybe more if she had chemotherapy. With sheer determination and courage, she's chosen chemo treatment. It's giving her maybe several more years in which she is getting involved with the Pancreatic Cancer research people (PCR). It's a much under-funded and under-publicised cancer, and the initial symptoms are mild and difficult to diagnose, so she's decided to do something to raise awareness and not just money. She set up a website called "77 ways to travel". You can read all the details if you Google "Jenny Oldfield pancreatic cancer fundraiser -77 ways" So that's how 40 of us came to be gathering near Perch Rock lighthouse, New Brighton, dressed as though we were about to trek the Antarctic!

The walk was organized by my youngest daughter Emma, who lives in Wallasey, and she contacted all her friends, colleagues, and relatives, and managed to get over 40 people involved. But we didn't bargain for the gale force winds!

I'd contacted the BBC News Northwest to tell them what we were doing, and the producer rung me to say he'd try to send a reporter and cameraman. Because it was Sunday it may not have happened if any serious news event broke, so we were lucky that it was a relatively uneventful day. A lovely young Irish reporter Mairead, and her cameraman, met us in the pouring rain to do the interview. That took place under the entrance to Perch Rock Fort which gave us some shelter. Then they filmed us all setting off on our walk, against the wind! Mairead sent me a message to say the recording would be shown on the BBC Northern News at 3:30 that afternoon. We were all able to watch ourselves after the walk, when we were fed and watered in the Lake pub in Hoylake. But the big surprise came when I got the message from Margaret at 10:45pm - to our surprise we had also appeared on the 10pm news Northwest.



With two walkers in their 80s, several families with young children and dogs, it was hard going, but we managed to raise £2000 (and still counting). It was a great experience done for a very worthy cause, and my claim to fame is that I can now say I've appeared on the BBC news.

The charity online link is "Emma Barlow Just Giving. 7 mile walk" which will stay open for the next 2 months. If anyone without a computer would like to support the cause, please contact me. Thanks.

Mavis Dean

BRIDGE PLAYERS – DO YOU WANT TO LEARN HOW TO PLAY DUPLICATE BRIDGE?

There is no mystery; Duplicate Bridge is exactly the same game as contract bridge. It is just a competitive way of playing bridge with the element of the luck of the cards removed. The course is NOT designed to help you improve your bridge. It is to make you feel comfortable to play at a club such as those run by the U3A or other organisations. Duplicate Bridge is fun, as serious as you want it to be, or not. It is a great way to get out, meet people with a common interest and make new friends.

You will learn

How there are in effect two competitions; one between all the North-South pairs, the other between the East-West pairs.

The use of bidding boxes to avoid inflexions in the voice; Three-no-trumps??? or Three-no-Trumps!!!

The use of wallets to hold the cards that are dealt only once at the start so all partnerships play the same cards.

How the North-South and East-West competitions are scored by the Director of the event to find a winning pair.

An overview of the basic systems played by the majority of club players.

An element of strategy relevant to Duplicate.



Each session, lasting two-and-a-half hours, will start with easy, step by step, tuition followed by play of 12 to 16 hands. So each week you will enjoy playing competitively and gain in confidence.

This is a new course, probably to be held at the Hawk Green Reading Room, Marple, but it needs at least twelve people for it to get off the ground. The cost will be between £10 and £20. If you are interested, please contact me.

Ben Alexander

Search for the Wreck of Ernest Shackleton's Ship Endurance

Endurance was the three masted barquentine in which Sir Ernest Shackleton and a crew of twenty seven men and one cat sailed for the Antarctic on the sixth of August 1914 from Plymouth, England.

Endurance was crushed by the Antarctic ice in 1915 and has never been found. A new team of researchers is heading to the Weddell Sea to try and locate the ship. At a cost of 10 million dollars, financed by an anonymous donor, an icebreaker is leaving Cape Town with a crew of 46 and a 64-member expedition team hoping to find the wreck and explore it with two underwater drones.

The Endurance is sitting in 10,000ft of water in the Weddell Sea. The director of the expedition says it is the most unreachable wreck ever, which makes this trip the greatest hunt ever.



Shackleton himself, whose plans to be first across Antarctica were derailed by the loss of his ship, described the site the ship was lost in as the worst portion of the worst sea in the world.

The expedition to find the ship, once they arrive in the Weddell sea, will have less than two weeks. If Endurance is found the drones will take photographs and videos and make precise laser scans of the wreckage. The site will not be disturbed as it has been declared a historic monument under the terms of the Antarctic Treaty signed in 1959.

The wreck is expected to be in good condition because of the cold water and the absence of wood-eating organisms in Antarctic seas.

This was the advert placed in the paper when Shackleton was looking for a crew to man the Endurance.

"Men wanted for hazardous journey. Small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful. Honour and recognition in case of success."

By the time you read this the search for the ship could have been successful.

Hope you enjoyed the read.

Paul Kenneth

U3A SCIENCE NETWORK

The three short virtual meetings in April, August and October 2021 were very well attended. In u3a's 40th Anniversary year, we plan three virtual meetings in April, July and October. The July meeting will be designated as the Anniversary meeting with an external speaker, see below. Two additional meetings for u3a members will be held in April and October 2022.

u3a Science Network meeting 5 April 2022 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM

A science-based learning event with 3 presentations of 45 minutes followed by questions after each, with a break for refreshments and for lunch. The meeting will start at 10:30 (doors open at 10:15) and will end with a short Summary and Thanks session at 3 o'clock.

Booking

To book a place on this Free event, please go to the [u3a Science Network website](#) and click the Registration option for the April meeting. Presentations will be made on:

- The Manhattan Project and the British bomb
- Glass: a look inside
- The scale of the Universe
- The day will conclude with Thanks, a Summary and an announcement about the July meeting.

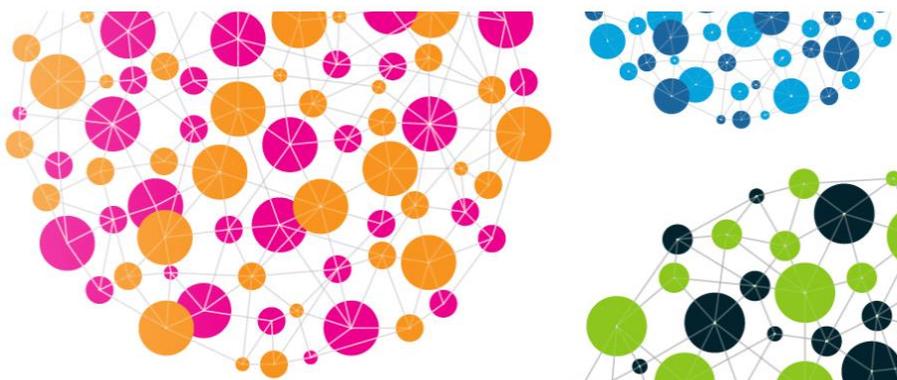
Plans for the July meeting

We hope that the July meeting will be open members of the public as well as to u3a members as we believe this would help to raise the profile of the movement. One of the speakers will be Sir Paul Nurse, an English geneticist, former President of the Royal Society and Chief Executive and Director of the Francis Crick Institute. Details of the programme will be published as soon as they are known.

October meeting

A third virtual meeting will be held in October.

11-20 March
**British
Science
Week
2022**



SNIPPETS

DID YOU KNOW?

Pancake day has its roots in Anglo Saxon history as a period of fasting based on Jesus's 40 days fast in the wilderness. Shrove Tuesday was the last day to use up the rich foods such as eggs, fats before the fast started so that Christians would be shriven of their sins. The timing of Ash Wednesday was fixed by Pope Gregory in 600AD.



Lent one-liners – thanks to various web jokes sites

Lent is the best time of the year to run a marathon. Because that's when you fast.

I was going to give up meat for Lent... But I just couldn't quit cold turkey.

I'm giving up negativity for Lent. We'll see how long that lasts.

I'm giving up abstinence for Lent.

I'm giving up spreadsheets for Lent. It's going to be Excel lent

And thanks to Trevor for these.

My grandad died two years ago, he left 57 clocks and 172 watches. "Took me ages to windup his estate!"

I know a famous geologist who is a great rock star!

I'm not old – I've just outlived my warranty!

When I found out my wife had swopped our bed for a trampoline, I hit the roof!

Bumper sticker on a senior's car "I'm speeding because I need to get there before I forget where I'm going."

Congratulations to Hugh Zapritti Boyden on his new role as Chairman of the "British Budgerigar Association."

Quiz answers

Thomas the Tank Engine

Cutty Sark

Mary Rose

Mallard

The Mayflower