

u3a High Lane

Newsletter

March 2024



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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the March 2024 edition of the High Lane u3a newsletter. Thanks to all the contributors for their interesting and informative contributions. The cover photo this time displays some of the work on show at the recent very successful Art exhibition organised by the Art group. I hope you managed to attend. We have a number of reports of group activities and some good news about churches and pubs plus information about forthcoming holidays and visits.

This is your newsletter. Please feel free to share some of your news, your interests, or items you have found that you think would be of interest to other members. This could be places you have visited, books you have read, films you have seen; your stories, anecdotes, photographs, recipes, poems, limericks, jokes; the list is endless. We are pleased to have several new members again this month. We welcome you to our u3a and look forward to meeting you at our meetings and interest groups. Your contributions to the newsletter will be very welcome.

This edition of the newsletter is accompanied by the updated Groups contact list for 2024. This contains contact details for the Committee and interest group leaders plus the programme of monthly meetings. **Please keep this safe as it is only issued once per year.**

Also attached to the email is the National Office bitesize newsletter for February. You can read the full newsletter [here](#). This has reports of many varied activities taking place in u3as across the country.

The next issue of our newsletter will be April 2024 so please send your contributions to me by 31st March 2024 at newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk

Diane Saxon

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal was due in February. So far, a quite a few members haven't renewed their membership. If you have not yet renewed, there is a renewal form available on the website [here](#). Remember that if you are not a current member, you will not be covered by u3a insurance. You will also not receive our newsletter. Please could group leaders check that all their group members have renewed their membership.

The membership fee for 2024 is £8 or £11.50 if you also wish to order the Third Age Magazine which is posted to you. The magazine fee covers the next five editions. The magazine is full of articles and items of interest – and is very good value.

FROM THE CHAIR

AGM

Our AGM last week was very well attended. Many thanks to everyone who came. A big thank you to all the group leaders who read or sent in reports for their groups. As far as I can remember it was the first time that we had a report from every group. Thank you.

A big vote of thanks to all the committee members who said they would stay on the committee. Without them you would not have a u3a.

Congratulations to the Art group who held a very successful Art show at the village hall. The show was very well attended. Well done to all who participated.

Paul Kenneth

MONTHLY MEETING

The monthly meeting in February was the annual AGM. Paul Kenneth opened the meeting with a welcome to everyone and apologies. Lynn Arnold read out the minutes of the 2022 AGM which were passed as a true record and there were no matters arising. Reports followed by the Chair and the Treasurer Les Birks. As usual the latter was full of humour and this year much of it was in verse!

As there were no nominations and existing members agreed to stay in role the Committee for 2024 remains the same. This was passed. There followed the reports from the group leaders. The meeting closed at 3.30.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 13th March when John Hooley is giving a talk entitled Royal Yachts.

At the meeting, there will be a second-hand book stall. All donations will go to the charities supported by The Village Hall Monday coffee morning group. You will also be able to get your ticket for the beetle drive.

GROUP NEWS

ART

The Art exhibition on 24 February was a huge success. We had a fabulous turnout thank you to all who came, and I think those of you who attended will agree that the exhibits were of a great standard. Well done to all the contributors.

The overall winner of the favourite picture was Smuggler's Haunt by Pam Cooke a well-deserved winner!



Madeleine Hennessey

A limerick inspired by the Art exhibition.

On Saturday at the Village Hall
We saw lots of artists, standing tall
Visitors who were smart
Snapped up some art
That's now hanging on their wall!

CHURCHES AND PUBS

The next outing on April 3rd is to St Leonards in Monyash. The Church is expecting us at 11.00 when tea and coffee will be provided. There is no charge from the Church so donations will be welcome.

Lunch will be available at 1pm at the Bulls Head (150 yards across the road). The two-course meal (including tip) will be £24.

The options for lunch are:

- Steak and Kidney pie, peas and chips.
- Scampi, peas and chips
- Cheese and onion Quiche and salad
- St Clements Brulee
- Baileys and chocolate meringue roulade
- Sticky toffee pudding

Please sign up at the next U3a meeting.

Later in the year, we have visits in August to Disley, October to Taxal, and another in December.

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

Paul Kenneth

CURRENT AFFAIRS

The Current Affairs Group meets once a month and we discuss issues national and international which are in the news. Discussion is always friendly and never confrontational, and we always finish the meeting with a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of cake provided by the group leader. This month the group was six in number and most encouraging this included two new members.

Issues discussed this month included –

During recent years we have had 5 prime ministers, Brexit, wars in Ukraine and Gaza, queues at food banks, critical incidents in the NHS, as well as deaths and illnesses in the royal family. The question is asked – Is this country falling apart? – No the country is not falling apart such issues have always occurred – they will pass away with time.

Bank notes in circulation. During the pandemic the number of bank notes in circulation decreased because of fears of infection however the number is increasing again now but not as much as before the pandemic with goods being bought online, also payment by card has become more popular.

It would seem more men are wearing beards – on TV etc these days – is this so? Yes, beards are getting more popular. However more popular than "a full set" such as worn by Popeye The Sailor is "stubble" which looks like the wearer has not shaved for several days.

What are your favourite TV programmes? – Escape to the Country – Escape to the Wilderness – Downton Abbey – To The Manor Born.

There is a move to prevent parking on the pavement – What are your feelings? – Does not seem to be a problem at the moment – so do not try to fix it.

Prince William is to have houses with heat pumps – built on land he owns. What are your comments. Heat pumps appear to be a great thing once as installed give very cheap heating in your property – great! So long as Prince William is building these properties to let for low rents – OK but if they are being built for profit – no. Prince William has enough wealth without adding to it.

Trevor Kinvig

CRIME FICTION READING



Our book for February was *The Big Sleep* by Raymond Chandler. This was his first book, published in 1939 and has its origins in two short stories he wrote for a US magazine. Some of our group commented on the joins which led to some unsolved aspects of the plot. In spite of this the book was well-liked by most of us and exceeded our expectations.

The book is fast-paced and heavy on description, but this was really helpful in enabling the reader to imagine the action taking place. The preponderance of American colloquialisms was annoying to some of our group, others just ignored them. The 1946 film of the book starring Bogart and Bacall is very true to the story and the characters.

The next meeting of the group is on Friday 15th March when we will be discussing *The Singing Sands* by Josephine Tey. This is the final book in her six-book series of Inspector Alan Grant books. The manuscript was found after she died in February 1952, and was published posthumously later that same year. The previous, and probably most famous, book in the series was *The Daughter of Time*.

Diane Saxon

DINING

As the weather in February can be bad, we, the Dining Group leaders select somewhere close to High Lane. This year we decided on The Bulls Head on the corner of Buxton Road and Torkington Road and it was a success. In recent years the establishment has been refurbished and the interior is now open plan, airy and light.

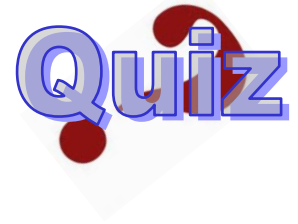
We were 25 in number including two new members, a very warm welcome, and we enjoyed a three course meal for only £11.95. £13 with the tip!

The staff were very pleasant and obliging and we had a very Jolly afternoon.

Dorothy Gerrard
Dorothy Neillands

QUIZZING

Our quiz for February was set by Angela. We had questions on colours, Greats, geography, acronyms, and some tantalising quotations.



This month's sample questions. All these have Great in the answer.

- 13th novel of a Victorian author
- Song by Jerry Lee Lewis
- World War II film
- Largest half marathon in the world
- TV programme set in Yorkshire Dales

At this meeting, we welcomed Alvin, a new member, to this group but have room for a couple more. We normally meet on the fourth Thursday of the month. Please get in touch if you would like to join us.

Diane Saxon

PHOTOGRAPHY

This month's competition was Still Life. The voting was very close. The winning photographs were

- Joint first with 5 points each Blist's Hill (Ken) and Vases (Jeff)
- Joint second with 4 points each Fruit and Veg stall (Jeff) and Street music (Ken)
- Third with 3 points Textures (Walter)



We welcomed Pam, a new member to the group, and would love to have some other members involved. No technical equipment is required; just a love of thinking about how to interpret a topic and how to capture an image.

The topic for this month is Animals. This is a very wide and accessible topic. Why not have a go? We'd love to see your pictures.

Please get in touch if you would like more details of this group.

Ken Jackson

TRAVEL



LITTLECOTE June 17th–21st
£449 sharing £549 single Entrance fees to be paid later.
BALANCE at MARCH Meeting

IRELAND July/August Information at March Meeting

RIVER CRUISE October 3rd–10th River Rhone, Burgundy and Provence
Cabins for sole occupancy have very high supplement.

WALKING

Spud Wood, Lymm village, Lymm Dam, Trans Pennine Trail and Bridgewater Canal.

Fifteen of us met in the car park at Spud Wood, near Lymm, complete with waterproofs and brollies. Surprisingly, the weather men had got it wrong, as, apart from one short mild rain shower, it remained dry throughout most of the walk.

Spud Wood is managed by the Woodland Trust, who acquired the land a few years ago and planted the trees. It used to be potato field, hence its name.



After a walk around and through the wood, we found an ancient footpath that led us into Lymm village, which still has its old stocks and a Village Cross with seating around it. It was a lovely place to enjoy our coffee break.

Lymm has a stream flowing through the village, so we followed it until we eventually crossed the A56 over Lymm Dam. The Dam was built in 1824 specifically to allow the A56 to pass through Lymm.



The side effect of the dam was the creation of a lake. We were able to follow the paths around the lake, stopping at one point to eat our packed lunches, before returning to walk back through Lymm village.



We then picked up the bridleway along a disused railway line that was part of the Trans Pennine Trail, and continued along it until we reached the site of a disused railway station and the old station master's house. A few yards down a road to a good path across a large field to reach the Bridgewater canal tow-path which took us back to the Spud Wood car park.

An enjoyable walk with better than expected weather.

Jeff Mortimer

National Office Learning Events

On the 8th February the Third Age Trust organised an online seminar entitled "Introduction to Air Fryers with Simple Recipes" which was presented by Beverley Jarvis. She has been a home economist and cookery writer for more than 50 years with more than 20 cookery books to her name. She has appeared on TV and radio many times and has her own web-site at <https://www.beverleyjarvis.co.uk>. She explained that a conventional oven costs about £12 per hour to run whereas an air fryer was about 17p per hour. Air fryer is really a misnomer as it is really another sort of oven.

In her presentation she cooked sausage and chips (10 mins), potato boulangère, salmon and tomatoes (7 minutes), pepper, courgettes, mushrooms and herbs (12mins.), parmesan chicken in breadcrumbs (12 mins.), pigs in blankets, mixed nuts with cinnamon, ginger and maple syrup (8 mins.) and muffins (8 mins.). Pretty impressive, but It did help that she had three air fryers!

Her latest book is called The Everyday Air Fryer Cookbook and there are more recipes on her website.

On 29th Feb there was another fascinating seminar from Dr Ron Knott late of Surrey University in the series "More Number Fun". It was based round the Ahmas Papyrus (also known as the Rhind Mathematical Papyrus) which was written in Egypt around 1550 BC. It showed how the ancient Egyptians, who had no mathematical concept of zero, and who represented numbers with hieroglyphs with no concept of positional notation could perform complex mathematical sums. This papyrus was itself a copy of a much older document which probably predated the pyramids.

He showed how the Egyptians could multiply and divide numbers basically by successively dividing and multiplying by 2 (which they could do), then adding the resulting numbers. They effectively invented an early form of binary arithmetic, predating computers by about 4500 years. He discussed only a small part of what was on the papyrus and it is too complicated for me to go into here, but an internet search for Ahmas Papyrus will bring up many more interesting avenues of discovery.

Mark Saxon

And these are some of the **March events**.

Remember they can fill up quickly.

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| 5 Mar | Time is money: Concorde was prestige |
| 7 Mar | Artificial Intelligence news |
| 11 Mar | Women in faith: international women's day |
| 13 March | Laughter yoga |
| 13 March | An Introduction to Influencing and Social Change |

- 19 March Using AI to Fight Climate Change
20 March John Snow and the hunt for the source of cholera in Victorian London
27 March Secrets of the Human Brain: Talk Three: Brain & Behaviour
28 March Suffering and hope in Tolstoy's Anna Karenina

There are many other events. All are free via Zoom. Click here for details and to book a place. <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

2024 u3a NATIONAL SPRING CHARITY BRIDGE FESTIVAL 8-12 APRIL

Steve Carter, u3a National Bridge Subject Adviser sent me the message about this event.

"This year's festival will be from 8 to 12 April inclusive, and we hope you and (some of) your group would like to join us. As before, we aim to provide 'something for everyone' and players will be able to play in person at their local venue on their regular day, or at home, or online. This year's charities will be Parkinson's UK and Cruse (Bereavement support).

This year's online platforms are Bridge Base Online (BBO), Bridge Club Live (BCL) and RealBridge. The Bridge Festival's innovative scoring system enables the scores of those playing offline to be integrated with those of online players, enabling the names of the overall national winners to be published each day. Each game will be supported with a full set of professional commentaries, enabling players to review play and improve their game."

You can find details of the 2024 Festival on the [u3a Bridge Group website](#) together with a comprehensive FAQs page.

BRIDGE LESSONS for BEGINNERS

Steve and his team are also organising an online Beginners' Bridge course. So far over 30 students and 6 teachers have been recruited. The application list is now closed for this tranche of students, but they hope to make it available to new students later in the year.

A spin-off from the promotion campaign is the interest in a 'Returners' Bridge course/opportunity to play online and there is a 'sign-up' sheet [here](#). If any members think they would benefit from such a course, then you are asked to sign up.

Please contact me if you would like more info about any of these initiatives.

Diane Saxon