

**FROM THE CHAIR**

Following the renewal of membership at the AGM, we have maintained our membership level of the last few years and currently have 425 members. The March meeting attracted a high turnout for the talk by Edwina Currie and last week 70 members enjoyed the annual lunch held this year at the Alma Lodge.

Recent changes in legislation require some changes in the way we run our U3A. To comply with Charities Commission regulations, there are important changes to the way we manage our finances that have been causing Les, our Treasurer, some extra work. Les will be writing to all Group Leaders setting out the new requirements for all groups that manage money. We have no choice about this; we are a charity and have to abide by the rules of the Charities Commission. Additionally, again to comply with Charities Commission regulations, we need to change the Objects clause in our Constitution. To do this we need to hold an Extraordinary General meeting. As there is only the one item we will do this at the end of a normal monthly meeting. We will give members formal notice of this meeting at a later stage. As well as this we have to comply with the new General data protection Requirements (GDPR) which entails a change to our membership application form.

I recently attended a meeting of the Greater Manchester Network of U3As. U3As from Cheadle Hulme and Ashton in Makerfield have now joined the Network so the Network now has 14 member U3As. The Cottonopolis project has led to several U3As developing research projects in their area; there is more about this on page 3 of this issue. The Network recently organized an inter-U3A quiz and we must congratulate our quiz team who gained a very good third place.

**Social events 2018**

As last year, your Committee is currently working on arrangements for two social events this year. We are planning a repeat of the very successful wine tasting evening in July. There will be six new wines for you to sample accompanied by some light refreshments. Arrangements for the second event are not yet finalised so more details will be available later in the year.

We are always happy to receive new ideas for social events - and offers of help. Please let any member of the Committee know if you have an idea for a social event.

As well as our social events, I would like to thank the Travel group for the impressive programme of trips and holidays for this year; see page 5 for details.

**Group News**

We have reviewed your suggestions for new groups which you indicated on your membership form. Our Groups Coordinator Doreen Scotte will make contact with those interested.

Of course, groups need leaders or co-ordinators so please be prepared to offer to help. Leading a group can be fun. It isn't an onerous task and can be shared by several members of the group. Please talk to Doreen if you need any further information.

Diane Saxon

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**FROM THE EDITOR**

Please send suggestions for content or articles of interest to U3A members to me at [newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk)

The next edition of the newsletter will be the July 2018 edition. Please can you get your contributions to the editor by 29 June?

**MONTHLY MEETINGS**

**MARCH MEETING**

At the March meeting we welcomed Edwina Currie who gave a lively and interesting talk to the assembled large audience on the theme of ‘Growing Old Disgracefully’. She discussed the implications of demographic changes in the UK as older people become a much higher percentage of the population. Many more people can expect to reach 100 with inevitable implications for care in later life. In 1950 there were 250 centenarians in the UK; in 2015 there were 14,000. We were also told that 1 in 3 over 65s are still in gainful employment; many of them full time. Based on her activities since leaving Parliament her message was we should take up new opportunities such as what U3A has to offer.

At Edwina’s request we collected donations for a local charity. We collected over £500 for the Beechwood cancer care charity. Sheila was pleased to receive a letter of thanks from Edwina after the meeting.

**APRIL MEETING**

At the April meeting, Noel Moroney presented a talk about the Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. This journey has been an established ‘Christian Pilgrimage’ for over 1000 years. He told us about the many millions of people who have completed the walk including St Francis of Assisi, Charlemagne, the King and Queen of Spain - Ferdinand and Isabella, Alighieri Dante and Geoffrey Chaucer.

**ANNUAL LUNCH**

18th April 2018. Alma Lodge, Davenport.

That time of year again, and we opted for a change of venue this year, The Alma Lodge, which from the favourable comments since the event, seemed like a good choice.

Paul, our Vice Chairman, welcomed 71 members who sat down at 12.30pm to an excellent three course lunch, plus coffee, very efficiently served by cheerful staff.

We then had the raffle with the usual assortment of prizes. Lastly came the quiz! We couldn't have an annual lunch without the quiz. This year Irene had produced a set of National Trust properties for us to identify along with some ‘Dingbats’. Table 6 came out "top of the class" winning both the picture quiz and Dingbats.

Hopefully a good time was had by all, as people went out into the beautiful sunshine.

Pam Andrew

**WINE EVENING**

We are repeating the successful wine evening this year with six new wines for you to try. Tickets cost just £7 and will be on sale at the May and June meetings. It’s a fun evening and I hope you will be able to join us.



**High Lane U3A**

**Wine Tasting Evening**

**6 wines to taste**  
**3 Whites and 3 Reds**

Introduced by U3A Members and Friends  
Includes cheese and biscuits

**Friday 6 July 2018**  
7:30 pm

High Lane Village Hall

**Tickets £7**

Numbers are limited.

*High Lane U3A Members only please.*

**BEGINNERS BRIDGE COURSE  
JANUARY/ MARCH 2018**

Bridge teaches you patience, self control, tolerance, self improvement and how to win modestly and lose gracefully. It improves your mental arithmetic, stretches memory and makes the brain work.

12 budding players were told all this when they embarked on the 11-week course in January. Amazingly, nobody fell by the wayside in those 11 weeks and the whole course proved extremely fulfilling for both trainers and trainees.

We managed to cover all aspects of bidding (natural and artificial) starting with how to value your hand, playing the cards, the importance of the partnership, and scoring for rubber, Chicago and Duplicate bridge. We tried to allow as much playing time as possible in each session because in the end, however well you are taught, it is practice that makes perfect.

Inevitably, some made better progress than others but all expressed a wish to carry on playing either with a U3A group or socially. Integration with the Monday and Thursday groups has already started for some.

So, well done to (in no particular order) Margaret, John & Carole, Laura, Eleanor, Pam & Peter, John, Sheila, Linda and Barbara & Peter. We hope to see you all at the Bridge table whichever one that happens to be.

On behalf of John, Margaret and myself thanks also for the very kind gifts we received at the end. Thanks also to Diane for her initial perseverance in setting the Course up and helping whenever she could during the 11 weeks.

Steve Reynolds

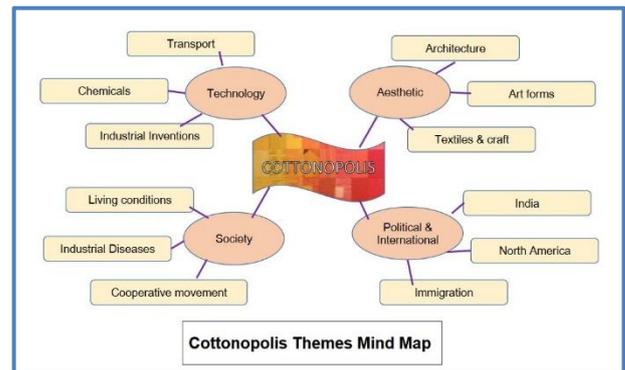
**THIRD AGE RESEARCH AND ACTIVE LEARNING  
Greater Manchester Network of U3As**

**COTTONOPOLIS**

Following the workshop in January several U3As are now engaged in research in their local areas.

Bolton and Bury U3As have created a Textile group researching calico printing. Salford U3A's local history group is researching mills in the area with the aim of producing biographies of the mills. Other projects are at the planning stage including a group looking at immigration patterns and Cheadle Hulme U3A who are setting up a project based around film studies.

This may be something that our historical groups might want to develop. We certainly had a lot of textile mills in the area.



Contact Diane Saxon for more details. The Cottonopolis website is at <https://cottonopolis.weebly.com/>

**CALLING ALL ARTISTS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS:  
STOCKPORT OPEN EXHIBITION**

Entries are invited in the following categories:

- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| Visual arts | Sculpture     |
| Textiles    | Digital media |
| Crafts      | Photography   |
| Print       | Installation  |

The closing date is early July. See here for details and how to submit your work

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/stockport-open-exhibition-2018> or get details at the Art Gallery.

**NATIONAL TRUST: WOMEN AND POWER**

As the nation celebrates 100 years since some women won the right to vote the National Trust is sharing stories of women who influenced their locations. Women and Power events and celebrations are taking place at National Trust locations nationwide throughout 2018.

Some in our area are:

Lost Voices. Quarry bank 3 March-7 October. Lost Voices explores the experiences of women who worked at the Mill. Installations across Quarry Bank will bring their voices to life.

A Woman’s Place? Dunham Massey  
24 March – 4 November

A changing programme of events, talks, films and tours that reveal more about the women of Dunham and female power last and present.

Women in Words. Dunham Massey.  
12 and 13 May, 12 – 4 pm

Authors and writers come to Dunham to celebrate women through books.

Romance and Revival. Speke Hall.  
10 Feb – 15 July

Exhibition exploring the life of Ada Watt, her marriage and the restoration of the building.

See [the website](#) for more information.

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**NEW COURSES FOR SPRING**

Royal food and feasting is just one of the totally free FutureLearn courses starting during May. Here are just a few starting in May.

Jane Austen	Mindfulness
Screenwriting	Shakespeare
History of Royal Food	German
Robots	Maths puzzles
Big data	WW1 heroism

You will need to register for the course(s) by clicking the Join link on the relevant web page.

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses>

**NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME (NGS)**

This year the NGS once again offers a good range of gardens in our area open throughout the summer. There is a small cost for viewing but money goes to support charities. The charities this year are The Queen’s Nursing Institute, Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Carers Trust, Hospice UK, Perennial, Parkinson’s UK and other guest charities.

Just some examples:

Didsbury Village gardens are open on Sunday 6 May and again on 10 June. There are seven gardens for you to view. Cost £5

20 May High Peak garden in Chapel on le Frith. Nearly two acres of formal terraced country garden, sweeping lawns and magnificent Peak District views. Rhododendrons, acers, azaleas, hostas, herbaceous borders, Zen garden. Cost £4.

Lots more gardens, photographs and details at <https://www.ngs.org.uk/>



We are having a very cold Spring so far this year but magnolias don’t seem to mind.

I also see that the blossom in Andrew Lane is looking particularly fine this year.

**OUR U3A ACTIVITIES**

9 May	Two Queens and a Countess
13 June	How Manchester Cotton Wired up to the World
11 July	The World of an Illustrator
6 July	Wine and cheese evening. Tickets available at May and June meetings. Cost £7
8 August	The Mercy Ships
12 Sept	The Jewish Way of Life

**NATIONAL AND REGIONAL U3A EVENTS**

30 April	Deeside network of U3As Science Day 10.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. Intended for leaders of science groups and others interested in science and potentially interested in forming a group in their U3A. Cost £5 per person Members of U3As beyond the Deeside and Wirral network are welcome to attend. Details and booking at <a href="https://u3asites.org.uk/files/n/north-west/docs/sciencedayflyer.pdf">https://u3asites.org.uk/files/n/north-west/docs/sciencedayflyer.pdf</a>
29 May	NW Region of U3As Conference and AGM. Liverpool.
28-31 Aug	Summer School. Newton Rigg Agricultural College.

**SUMMER CONCERT**

St Ann's Hospice Festival Choir is holding a concert in aid of St Ann's Hospice on Sunday June 17th at 7.30pm at Stockport Town Hall. A programme of light music with Nigel Ogden playing the organ. The programme includes a medley from Les Miserables, Gilbert and Sullivan choruses and traditional songs of the sea.

Tickets cost £15 and can be obtained from choir members and from the Town Hall. Please come and support this worthy cause. Contact Carol Straffon for details.

**TRAVEL GROUP ACTIVITIES**

Contact: Margaret McDermott or Ruth Smith

12- 14 May	Weekend in the SHREWSBURY Area. £200 pp £42 ss
3 - 8 June	DORSET. Fully booked. Information in the small hall after the meeting on May 9th. Please try to attend.
20 June	Tour of Buxton opera house and afternoon tea in the pavilion gardens. No coach. Use public transport. Book at May meeting
5 July	BIRMINGHAM Morning tour of Newman Brothers Coffin Works who made handles and name plates for Churchill and the Queen Mother. Afternoon: own choice of Museum & Art Gallery (free), New Library of Birmingham (free) Jewellery Quarter Museum (entry fee). Cost £18
3 August	LEIGHTON HALL AND CARNFORTH STATION. Guided tour of the house,home of the Gillow furniture making family. Falconry display. Carnforth is where the film Brief Encounter was made. Cost £17
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. <b>Balance to be sent individually to Greatdays Travel Agent no later than July 9th.</b> Payment for entrance fees (to be advised) at August meeting.
21 - 25 October	BUDAPEST. 4 nights BB at Danubius Erzsebet Hotel. Flight from Manchester to Budapest. Cost £371 (not including entrance fees) Payment for entrance fees (to be advised) at October meeting. <b>BALANCE AT JULY MEETING</b>
21 Nov – 7 Dec	CRUISE. P&O ARCADIA from Southampton to Lisbon, Canaries, Madeira (2 days), Azores

## GROUP REPORTS

### BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 1 AND 2

#### March Meeting:-

Our March meeting featured the ballet "Cinderella". The ballet which is in three acts is based on one of the best loved children's fairy stories.

The performance featured; "The Birmingham Ballet Company", with music by "Sergei Prokofiev" and choreography by "David Bintley". The dancers were "Elisha Willis" as "Cinderella", "Ian Mackay" as the "Prince", "Marion Tate" as the "Wicked Stepmother", "Victoria Marr" as the Fairy Godmother, "Gaylene Cummerfield" & "Carol-Anne Millar" as the "Ugly Sisters".

#### April Meeting:

Our April meeting featured the ballet "La Bayadere". The ballet is set in legendary India and is a story of love death and vengeful judgement. It is the story of the love between a beautiful temple dancer Nikiya and a young warrior named Solor.

The performance featured; "The Royal Ballet Company", with music by "Ludwig Minkus" and choreography by "Marius Petipa". The dancers were "Carlos Acosta" as "Solor" and "Tamara Rojo" as "Nikiya".

Sheila Hall

### BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 3 AND 4

#### 28th March / 5th April:

We saw a performance of Romeo and Juliet from La Scala, Milan. This was a recording of Kenneth Macmillan's ballet, with Alessandra Ferri and Angel Corella as the young lovers.

#### 25th April / 3rd May:

We continued our La Scala season with a première of a new ballet: The Lovers' Garden. This was set in an enchanted garden, where the characters from Mozart operas told their stories. The ballet was danced to a selection of Mozart's quartets and quintets – exquisite music and some exceptional dancing.

Our next meeting will feature the Dutch National Ballet in **Mata Hari**.

Meg Humphries

### BALLROOM DANCING

After recent helpful video demonstrations of foxtrot and waltz steps, we ended our Spring session, with a presentation to Sam and Irene, and followed that with a group photograph. In the Summer we now reduce to monthly meetings, but intend to follow one meeting with a group meal out.

Walter Mason



## CHURCHES AND PUBS

Unfortunately this year has got off to a bad start. We had to cancel the first two visits due to bad weather and a funeral.

The visit in March has been rearranged for October 3rd taking the place of the visit to Wilmslow which was cancelled by them. The second visit we hope to rearrange at a later date.

Paul Kenneth

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## CINEMA

After a long winter and several "serious" films it was good to see a comedy "Finding Your Feet" was a real treat with Celia Imrie and Imelda Staunton hoofing it up as mature ladies coping with changes in their lives.

We then had a prolonged Easter break where family films were shown.

Our latest visit was to see "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society". A remarkable film with lovely scenery, veteran actors and a sad mystery to unravel. Highly Commended

Sheila Harrop

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## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### March meeting

Many topics were covered. Some provoked different views, but we all agreed that the proposed Manchester Airport fees for dropping off and picking up are a bad idea, and another money-making ploy. It was pointed out, however, that Liverpool airport has been charging for years.

We all agreed that there should not be all-women shortlists. There should be equality of opportunity based on skills and knowledge.

Re. the competition to choose the world's best teacher.....how do we judge this? There are lots of excellent teachers in the world.

We were divided on the discussion about the end of austerity. Is there light at the end of the tunnel? Some were dismissive, others were more positive.

On 'the changing high street' with all the business closures, we thought this is inevitable, and online shopping is a large factor in this change.

The majority agreed that those who pursue an unhealthy lifestyle (e.g. drugs, obesity, smoking, excessive alcohol) should not have unlimited health care, but this was somewhat controversial, as was the discussion on State funding for the Arts.

After a few more topics (all submitted by members of the group) we had our usual tea, coffee and home-made cakes, with some light-hearted 'chat', and thank Margaret Mcdermott for her hospitality.

Mavis Dean

**April meeting**

Our first subject was what appears to be the burgeoning friendship between Presidents Trump and Macron. Macron has been the first Head of State to go on a State Visit since Trump was elected and the comment was made that perhaps this is a way of pushing the UK down the pecking order now that we are leaving the EU. Also, maybe Trump can be persuaded to reduce the trade sanctions on Iran.

Immigration.

The Windrush immigrants are very much in the news at present and we discussed the fact that their landing cards had been destroyed and so their records were all lost which we all thought was disgraceful. These people who had come here to work when we needed them were now being deported against their will was a situation which should never have been allowed to happen. It was pointed out that the Government was very much at fault as they had known these deportations were happening and it seemed a blind eye had been turned until the recent publicity.

Did the PM act correctly in sanctioning the bombing of chemical weapons sites in Syria? One of our group commented on the fact that the UK must be manufacturing chemical weapons at Porton Down and our excuse for this would be that this was for defence. We also discussed the fact that we have supplied weapons to rebels in Syria who have now become Isis so some blame can be attached to us. Perhaps we should stop interfering. The RAF fired eight missiles, each costing £3/4 million and what good has it done?

New baby Prince. The question was not so much about the baby's arrival as about the way some people camped outside of the hospital for two weeks waiting for the news. What is the mindset of these people. Most of us could not understand anyone doing this but one person said that if it gave them some pleasure, so be it. We decided to guess the names of the baby. Suggestions were Philip, Michael and Arthur; some of us had no interest. You will know by now if anyone was right.

Alfie Evans. By the time you read this. Perhaps this tragedy will have reached a conclusion. Some of our small group thought the parents should now be allowed to either take the baby home or to the hospital in Italy but also felt that they were not really considering the interests of the child, but were thinking more of themselves. We were very critical of the people demonstrating and thought their behaviour was dreadful, particularly in regard to calling the hospital staff murderers.

We did wonder where the money was coming from to pay for all these Court cases and trips to Italy.

Royal succession. The question was asked whether Prince Charles would be King.

We all agreed that we thought it was inevitable that he would be King one day and that Camilla would be Queen even though that would be very unpopular with some people. The general feeling seemed to be that Charles would be dedicated to the Country and Commonwealth but would not have the charisma of the Queen.

As usual after all this talk, we were only too glad of the tea and cake

Pat Gorie

We now have room for a few more members in this group. Several no longer attend because of ill health. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday in the month at 2:15pm.

The next meeting is on Wednesday May 23rd. Anyone interested please contact Margaret McDermott

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**GARDENING**

Easter school holidays/grandchildren minding forced the cancellation of the planned daffodil visit, but in Irene’s conservatory the dozen of us provided a fascinating round of explanations on how we each became first interested in gardening.

This followed our pleasant tour of the well-kept garden with many varied spring flower highlights. Scattered clusters of doronicum with eye-catching yellow daisy flowers made a particularly good show – especially galling to the group leader who can’t grow them for love nor money!

Walter Mason




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**GERMAN**

The group continues to meet regularly on a Friday, but recently there have been a few Fridays cancelled because of Easter and family visits.

We still manage to find an array of interesting texts, most recently involving crime in ski resorts so we are all now familiar with different ski runs and items of sportswear which we are highly unlikely ever to need. Members of the group still have many interesting stories to tell which takes up half of our two hour session. Our biscuit selection continues to be varied and even our 4-legged friends are not forgotten, which explains why Sandi always knows when it's Friday.

Marlene Brookes

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**HISTORY**

Marlene Brookes gave an excellent presentation on The Kinder Transport. Discriminatory actions against the Jews had started when Hitler came to power in 1933, beginning in a relatively small way such as a one day boycott of all Jewish shops and sacking all Jewish civil servants and gradually increasing over time. As a consequence of these actions, by 1938 half of the Jewish population had left Germany and also many non-Jewish people.

At an international conference in 1938, it was agreed that any Jews wishing to leave Germany were free to do so, but they could take nothing with them. However, none of the other countries involved were willing to open their gates to a great influx of Jews. Consequently, the British Quakers and Jewish community asked for permission to bring children out of Germany and this started the organised transportation of children from Germany to other countries. Between 1938 and the declaration of war in 1939, when it was stopped, 10,000 children were transported. Unfortunately, some were taken to countries that were subsequently occupied.

The next meeting will be on May 30th with a talk by Anne Hearle on Crested China starting at 2pm

Pam Curley

**OPERA APPRECIATION**

**13th / 27th March.**

We saw the Dresden Festival production of Xerxes. With music by Handel, this is the story of the Persian king who crossed the Hellespont in order to lead his armies into Europe. The role of Xerxes, originally written for a castrato, was sung by a mezzo-soprano, who gave a stunning rendition of Ombra mai fu. (Handel’s Largo).

**10th / 24th April.**

We returned to more dramatic opera, with a performance of Tosca from the Royal Opera.

For our May meetings, I intend to show Don Giovanni.

Meg Humphries

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

The March meeting on sculptures gave us a judging dilemma, as we found it hard to separate the different pictures. In the end we had a triple tie for first place with Ram (New Zealand) – Bob; Frog (Middlewood Way) – Jeff; and Hands (Gretna Green) – Derek.



We also had a quadruple tie for fourth place with Horse Column (Woodbank Park) – Derek; Young Couple (Giethoorn, Holland) – Walter; Horse Rider (Owain Glydor, Wales) - Bob; and Female Buddha(Thailand) – Bob.

We also decided to revise our programme slightly to our assist our choice of pictures for a 2019 calendar.

Walter Mason

**QUIZ GROUP**

The Quiz group continues to find interesting and challenging ways of tormenting members’ brains! In March Rita set us questions on a range of different categories with a Dingbats quiz for the refreshment break. In April, Mavis set the questions and we puzzled over slogans, Janes and double acts with our coffee.

Here are some of Mavis’s cryptic clues to Double acts for you to try:

- The city of Verona (play)
- Children and canals (book)
- James and his frilly undies (TV)
- Beautiful Scottish river (film)

In March, a team of High Lane quizzers successfully took part in the quiz organised by the Greater Manchester Network of U3As. Answering questions on Films, Science, Music, History and current affairs plus identifying faces of people associated with the Manchester region the High Lane team finished in third place but were very close to the team who finished second. The winners were a team from Oldham U3A. Feedback from the event was very good and we may see a repeat of this event.

Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month. Please contact me for details or to add your name to the waiting list.

Diane Saxon

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## TRAVEL

### SKIPTON

On Saturday 21st April, 25 of us set off early on our trip to Skipton. Pat Gorie had organised everything beautifully and even managed to choose a perfect day for us to visit this picturesque little town in the Yorkshire Dales.



On our arrival we were met by our excellent castle guide who regaled us with tales of blood, treachery and feuding nobles (quite familiar to those in the Shakespeare group). She delighted in telling us of the dreadful defensive measures taken by the Cliffords to deter those foolhardy enough (the Scots and the Yorkists) to attempt to breach the walls. And what walls they were! - 4 metres thick and practically unbreachable because of the short, stubby towers, a design copied from the Saracens during the crusades.

Visiting the kitchen and great hall, we were made aware how unpleasant life was in the Middle Ages, not only for the serfs but also for the nobles, who probably did not live long enough to get the arthritic knees and aching muscles of the members of our group who found the many narrow staircases a little taxing.

The castle was only ever taken by the Parliamentary Forces in the Civil War and the Cliffords were allowed to return provided they reduced the thickness of the walls by a half and used the castle as a private house. Since the war it has been owned by a local businessman who continues to maintain the castle in its present impressive state.

The rest of the day was spent in the picturesque little town with its bustling street market and many interesting eating places. Some of us even managed a canal trip. At 4.30 we willingly boarded the coach home after a tiring day well spent.

Marlene Brookes

**WALKING**

**WEDNESDAY WALK 28 MARCH 2018**



19 hardy walkers met at the 5 Lane Junction at the top of Mellor. Walk leader Steve Reynolds had warned that, although not long, the going was likely to be tough after days of poor weather. And so it proved.

We set off along the Shiloh Road with splendid views of Lantern Pike and then Kinder Scout. We joined the Gun Road and headed towards Pistol Farm before striking out across moorland to a farm track.

We encountered serious mud on the diversion to

Robin Hood's Picking Rods. Unsurprisingly these two stones have nothing to do with Robin Hood but are Anglo Saxon in origin and mark the boundaries of Mellor, Ludworth, Rowarth and Chisworth. Retracing our steps through the same mud we crossed Ludworth Moor to Clough End, where we forded a stream before arriving at the tiny hamlet of Brook Bottom. There used to be a bleach works nearby but that is long gone.

A steady climb then followed as we headed towards Mellor Hall. Although the present building is 17th century there has been a hall on this site since medieval times. A short walk then to arrive at Mellor Church just in time to take sanctuary from a heavy shower and eat packed lunches.

From the Church, downhill to Lower Farm, before the sting in the tail. An upward slog past the Oddfellows Arms to Moorend and back to the starting point. Walk length 5.5 miles

Steve Reynolds

**Tuesday Walk 10th April 2018**

Eleven of us drove in convoy to the Grin Low car park, just south of Buxton, with the intention of enjoying a 5 mile walk led by Jeff Mortimer. The planned route was via Solomon's Temple, Poole's Cavern, the old Cromford and High Peak Railway, and the (now empty) Stanley Moor reservoir.



On leaving our cars, it was obvious that low cloud would render visibility to be not more than a few yards for most of the walk. Climbing towards Grin Low Tower, otherwise known as Solomon's Temple, we traversed uneven ground caused by the remains of old lime kilns. On arriving at the Victorian folly, it was obvious that no views were possible as low cloud was upon us.

On leaving, we entered a wood but it was soon evident that this was the wrong wood as Jeff had become disorientated due to the mist. Soon we were in the correct wood, "Buxton Country Park" and we descended to the car park at Poole's Cavern where we stopped for a coffee break.

Passing a school with its playing fields, we crossed a muddy field to join a lane leading through Fern House (an equestrian centre), and then through some fields onto Grin Low Road. Here, Jeff had planned to ascend

to join to old railway trackbed through Harpur Hill Business Park, but due to the poor visibility, he decided to take a shorter route to pick up the line near Stanley Moor. He had not "reccied" this however, and unfortunately, the route took us through one of the muddiest farmyards ever!

Crossing a field, we stopped by a wall to eat our packed lunches. The visibility was still almost zero, which was a pity as the view would have been superb. We continued, to pick up the trackbed and then we arrived at the empty Stanley Moor reservoir. Jeff explained that the reservoir had been built over a fault line, where lime stone and grit stone had met, so it had always leaked. The authorities had therefore apparently given up and drained it. Jeff thought that the smaller reservoir on the Leek road nearby must have taken over its duties.

After that we followed a track back to the car park. Despite the disappointing misty weather, the walk was enjoyed by all and it was suggested that we repeat the walk later in the year when the weather should be more favourable.

Jeff Mortimer

**Ford, Wash and Malcoff  
Wednesday 25th April 2018**

David Burke led a group of fourteen on a 5.5 mile walk around the hamlet of Ford near Chapel-en-le-Frith. Ford is the oldest part of Chapel with records predating 1222.

We parked at Ford House in dry bright weather conditions and ascended Peat Lane, a lovely tree lined track with excellent views of the valley and the Chestnut Centre, alas now permanently closed.



After passing through open farmland, busy with new lambs at play, we reached the bridleway at Tom Moor and followed it towards Hayfield. On reaching Roych Clough we had a welcome coffee stop by the peat stained stream, enjoying weak sunshine sheltered from the wind. Our route continued along the bridleway before following a downhill path to Shireoaks and then along a horizontal track in open countryside. However here the heavens opened and heavy rain and strong winds lashed us as the squall passed quickly through, but not before giving us a good soaking!



Under brightening conditions we followed the path to Breckhead and descended to Wash via a network of "hidden" paths. From Wash we followed a fantastic path along the river, under bright sunny skies, passing Cornheys Farm and stopping for our picnic lunch on reaching the bridge on the lane to Malcoff. We then followed the lovely lane back to Ford. Unfortunately, as we approached Ford, the brisk wind delivered a violent rain, hail and thunder storm, giving us another soaking before we could take shelter in our cars! The weather did spoil its manners but did not quench our enjoyment of the stunning area around the ancient hamlet of Ford.

David Burke