

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the May 2022 edition of the High Lane u3a newsletter. Once again we have lots of news to report. This edition contains more information about our 21st anniversary lunch in July, recent monthly meetings, news from groups, the North West summer school plus a selection of interesting items from members.

The Murder Mystery evening we are planning for October is now in the early stages of preparation. The setting for the play is an Amateur Dramatics theatre. Casting is going well – but we are short of a player for one of the male characters. You don't need to learn lines as the actors read from their script. We will have a few rehearsals nearer the date; this was all great fun and we all enjoyed taking part in the previous murder play – [so please can we have a volunteer.](#) Get in touch with me please. We have other social events in the pipeline and further details of these will be in the next couple of newsletters.

New group – Chatting with some members last week, we discovered a shared passion for crime novels – and thought it would be fun to start a Crime fiction reading group. From Poirot and Marple, Lord Peter Wimsey, Adam Dalgleish, Jane Tennyson through to Rebus, Banks and Grace there is lots to enjoy. The group will meet monthly and the first meeting will be in early June to give us time to read the first book we have selected.

If you are interested in this group, please contact me for details.

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 April 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.

The next issue will be May 2022 so please send your contributions to me by 29 April at newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk

Diane Saxon

THIRD AGE MATTERS MAGAZINE

Subscribers please note – the April edition this year has been delayed due to technology updates at the printers. The magazine will be posted to members in May.

If you would like to subscribe to the magazine, please contact the membership Secretary.

FROM THE CHAIR

Since we have got back to monthly meetings they have been well attended and we have had excellent speakers. More and more groups seemed to be getting back to normal with people feeling more confident about going out and getting on with life.

We have got quite a few things planned for this year which we hope you will support. Please keep on reading the newsletter so you don't miss anything

Paul Kenneth

21st ANNIVERSARY LUNCH

We can now confirm that the guest speaker for the Anniversary Lunch is Edwina Curry. The title of her talk is Living in interesting times. Many of us will remember that Edwina came to visit us at a monthly meeting a few years ago and it's great to welcome her back to our u3a.

The date is Wednesday 6 July 2022, 12.00 for 12.30 pm at the Deanwater Hotel. Ticket sales are already going well. You can get yours at the monthly meetings. If you can't get to a meeting contact André to make an arrangement to get your ticket. The menu for the lunch is here in case you missed it in the previous edition.

*Tomato and Roasted Red Pepper Soup
Platter of Prawns with a Lemon and Chive Mayonnaise
Caramelised Pear, Goat's Cheese and Rocket Salad with Balsamic Drizzle*



*Chicken Breast with Smoked Bacon, Leek and Mushroom Sauce
Topside of Beef with Yorkshire Pudding, Rich Beef Gravy and Horseradish Sauce
Poached Fillet of Salmon masked by a White Wine and Asparagus Sauce
Sweet Potato, cashew and Apricot Chutney Tart (VG)*



*Dark Chocolate and Raspberry Torte
Lemon and Lime Cheesecake
Summer Berry Pavlova*

Followed by Coffee/Tea

Cost £29.50

MONTHLY MEETING APRIL

OVERPAID AND OVER HERE (GI'S IN THE UK)

John Wallace, who was our cancelled January meeting speaker, stood in for the unavailable "Children's Air Ambulance" and provided us with a very enjoyable, informative and entertaining afternoon.

John commenced by giving us the background of the American GIs and what an impact they had on our war-torn Britain. When they first arrived, in their thousands and were integrated all over Britain they were issued with a booklet called "Instructions for American Servicemen in Britain 1942" so that they could embrace the culture that was so different from their own as this following extract typifies:



"The British have phrases and colloquialisms of their own that may sound funny to you. You can make just as many boners in their eyes. It isn't a good idea, for instance, to say "bloody" in mixed company in Britain-it is one of their worst swear words. To say: "I look like a bum" is offensive to their ears, for to the British this means that you look like your own backside; it isn't important-just a tip if you are trying to shine in polite society. Near the end of this guide you will find more of these differences of speech."

John was dressed in an original US service uniform and showed how "dapper" these GIs were, in their greens, the smart formal jacket and pinks as their pale taupe-coloured trousers were so named and was it any wonder that the poor "tommies" the British soldiers in their drab serge uniforms were totally outshone by their American counterparts. Topped with the fact that the GIs were more highly paid and with their offerings of chewing gum, Hershey chocolate bars, Lucky Strike smokes, nylons along with their exotic accents heard only on the Hollywood screens, they weren't just a welcome sight they were virtually a different species. 70,000 women ended up as wartime GI brides and many a baby born as to the beleaguered British women, they were a glamorous, colourful escape from a world of powdered egg and war work.



John explained how much information and historical significance could be gleaned from the badges and insignias on the green jacket itself, ie the owner's rank, service record, gallantry awards, etc. He then displayed a really hefty US army issue great coat made of very heavy wool which had saved many a soldier's life whilst serving on the cold battlefields.

Then John modelled an instantly recognisable US servicemen's attire, an original A2 flying jacket popularly known as the "bomber jacket". He pointed out that any original jacket, as opposed to the many replicas that flood the market, are now quite valuable and hard to acquire and are recognisable as they are produced with one piece of leather with no joins across the garment and are fitted at the waistband and cuffs, the more highly decorative ones being the most coveted.



Finally, the afternoon ended with a musical interlude as we were treated to the sounds that hit our shores along with the influx of these "Hollywood icons" called GIs – little wonder that the women were so enthralled with the music of swing along with the dance cultures, jitterbug, lindy hop etc to lighten their war-torn lives and lift their spirits and as we all sat foot-tapping and singing along to the likes of Benny Goodman and "In the Mood" by Glenn Miller and his Orchestra it had been a real and entertaining insight into the life of our American allies in WW11 Britain.

Pam Cooke

Our next meeting is on 11 May when Caroline Melliar-Smith will present a talk entitled Family Secrets.

Important message to people using the Village Hall car park

When you next visit the hall, you will see that the car park has changed dramatically. As before traffic flow is clockwise however the bays are in totally different positions so be careful. Please ensure you park within the marked bays. There is disabled parking available at the end nearest the hall on both sides of the car park.



GROUP NEWS

BALLROOM DANCING

Our April dancing was rounded off by a joint meal with Sequence Dancing, as we wished Cliff and Janet well over a meal in the Crown at Hawk Green. They are shortly moving to the Warwick area to be nearer to their family members.

Next month we will have fewer dances as the summer months tend to give us lower attendances.

Walter Mason

CANASTA

As many will know we play Canasta at the Royal Oak on a Tuesday night at 7pm. All are welcome. This week I wondered if I was at the right pub, what a transformation, a total new outdoor design.

Next time you are passing take a look a great improvement.

Oh, despite it, I still lost.

Les



CURRENT AFFAIRS

The news is still dominated by Ukraine, refugees and Downing Street parties.

Is endlessly apologising for breaking the law sufficient excuse? The current government is dominated by a group who have attended public schools and gone on from Oxbridge to high office where rules are for others and not for them. It would be so much better if there were more MPs with a background more in tune with the majority of the population. But, as Isabel Hardman (Assistant Editor of the Spectator) explains in her book, we often get the wrong politicians. One member of our group gave an example of an MP in her area who does not live there and rarely attends constituency surgeries.

We then discussed the Government's latest plan for asylum seekers – send them to Rwanda. We all thought this idea is appalling, inhumane and unlikely to deter people risking their lives in small boats in the English Channel and will prove to be extremely expensive. The Archbishop of Canterbury condemned it and said it was not Christian. Jacob Rees Mogg said the Archbishop did not understand the plan!

We were all impressed with the bravery of the journalists who went to Ukraine to report on the situation there. We thought that the BBC newsreader Clive Myrie was particularly impressive and showed such sympathy for those Ukrainians he interviewed. He has been a war correspondent for many years going to Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and many other war-torn countries.

One of our group thought it was “going over the top” having a minute of applause in support of Ronaldo, a Manchester United player, following the death of his baby son. Apparently, the spectators sang “you’ll never walk alone” in the 7th minute– 7 being Ronaldo’s shirt number. Others felt that although many others had lost babies who died soon after birth it was only when celebrities were involved that it was publicised. It brought information of the charity SANDS (Stillborn and Neonatal Deaths Society) to the fore.

Margaret McDermott

DINING

We are happy to report that the dining group is now up and running.

At the March meeting we started taking names for a lunch in April at Panache in Poynton and were delighted when we received twenty six names

Tuesday April 5 was a lovely day and we were seated in the conservatory at Panache. It was a good start for the group and we all enjoyed being out again and catching up with old and new friends, not to mention no cooking or dish washing required that day

At the May meeting we will be taking bookings for our next lunch which is in June, we will be visiting an old favourite from pre Covid days, the John Millington in Cheadle..

All members of the U3A are welcome so come and join us.

Dorothy Gerrard
Dorothy Neillands

GARDENING

The gardening group continued with two visits in April; first to a NGS garden in Lymm, and second to Maureen's garden.

The Lymm garden of 1 acre had an open aspect, yet palms and tree ferns were growing without protection. There were many unusual varieties, a large pond and stream area, a long alpine raised bed, as well as extensive lawns and many borders. Lots to see and well worth the visit.

Maureen's much smaller garden also had much of interest, with contrasting foliage colours, and plenty of spring flowers. Maureen's skill with planted pots was well in evidence, and the visit was rounded off by a delightful spread of buns and cakes.



Walter Mason

PHOTOGRAPHY

This month's competition was The Letter T

Winning photographs were:

1st. A moment in time – Jeff

Joint 2nd – Bell Tower – Walter, Topiary elephant – Diane.



Thanks for all your entries. Well done everybody.
The topic for next month is 'Funny signs'. Why not
come and join us?

Jeff Robinson

READING

At our last two meetings we discussed two best sellers which met with mixed responses from our members. The first was PERFUME by Patrick Sueskind a novel greeted with widespread acclaim when it first appeared in the 1980s but was not so well received by members of the group. Despite the quality of the writing, the subject matter of a perfumier killing young girls to capture their scent did not appeal to the majority.

Another disappointment was FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS by Ernest Hemingway , the most famous novel of the Spanish civil war which only livened up in the last 20% of the book. What was really irksome was the writing which sounded like a bad translation from the Spanish.

At our next meeting we will be discussing KLARA AND THE SUN by Kazuo Ishiguro, a more recent novel published fairly recently to great acclaim. If you are interested in joining us, please contact me.

Marlene Brookes

QUIZZING

Quiz group members met on their usual date of the fourth Thursday in April for their session of brain torture. This month we faced some challenging questions in the quiz set by Betty. This could be the toughest so far!

Try these from Betty's quiz. Answers on page 15.

Second largest city in the Irish republic?
Capital of Bermuda?
UN founded?
First female prime minister of Australia?
George H. W. Bush became President?
What were Clover, Molly and Boxer in
Animal Farm?

Medical name for inflammation of a vein?
Keir Starmer's constituency?
Only musician to win a Nobel prize for
Literature?
Hearts of an octopus. How many?

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

Diane Saxon

TRAVEL

KENT June 12th–17th.

Coach will depart from Alderdale Drive High Lane at approx. 9am.
Further information at June meeting.

RHINE CRUISE TO SWITZERLAND Aug 9th–16th.

Further information at July meeting.

IRELAND September 4th–8th.

Benners Hotel Tralee Flight from Manchester Airport to Cork.
£560 single supplement £88 Does not include entrance fees.

LINCOLN October 14th–17th.

Half board at Holiday Inn Lincoln
Approx. £360 including entrance fees.
DEPOSIT AT MAY MEETING

DAY VISITS

RHS BRIDGEWATER Cancelled

LIVERPOOL July 20th.

Tour of Liverpool Cathedrals
PM. Own choice of activities most of which are free.
Museums, Art Galleries, St. George's Hall, River Cruise(charge)
£17 for 30 people £20 for 25
PAYMENT AT MAY MEETING

BOLSOVER CASTLE August 27th

Medieval Jousting Event
Approx. £28
PAYMENT AT JUNE MEETING

GERMAN

After a short interval we have been able to have two meetings recently, kindly hosted by Mary Berry. It was lovely to meet up again and we had lots to talk about (in German!). After coffee, we resumed reading our book "Damals war es Friedrich". We are now meeting fortnightly and our next meeting will be on Friday, May 6th at Mary's.

Marlene Brookes

REMEMBER THIS?

Further to the photo of the football team last month, I have written a bit about the Company (which preceded Lithopak).

A subsidiary of English Sewing Cotton Company the firm occupied the old Wallers Mill premises. The site is now the Sainsbury Store on London Road. Employing many local people, the workers enjoyed many advantages unusual in the first half of the 20th Century. Behind the factory there was a bowling green, a putting green, tennis courts and a large hall for dances and social events. Cardboard Boxmaking occupied part of the factory whilst general printing was done in the other. One famous product was the label for the Dewhurst Sylko bobbins.



Seventy years ago, I served my apprenticeship there. I was often sent up to Manchester advertising agencies with work. I used to travel on one of the many trams that rattled past from the Rising Sun.

Derek Fielding

Did you spot Derek in the photo? Can you now?



WALKING

A WALK AROUND THE BOLLIN

On Wednesday 30th of March on a day for which the weather forecast was for freezing temperatures and snow showers, 11 walkers completed a 5.8 mile varied walk from Twinnies carpark, just a mile from Styal Mill (NT). Fortunately, the day was much less cold than had been forecast and we saw little of the snow showers that we had expected. In fact, it turned out to be quite a pleasant day.



The River Bollin was our constant companion for most of the walk and there was plenty to see along the way including Styal Mill and the varied woodland and rolling rural landscape that surround Wilmslow. The route took us through Styal Country Park following the Bollin, crossing the numerous bridges and climbing the frequent steps both up and down the

inclines, following the riverside path to emerge onto Altrincham Road by the Airport Hotel. Our return route took us on field paths through numerous kissing gates to pass by Morley and Morley Green, to then follow the path through the woods behind Kings Road and Wilmslow Rugby Club. We were a few weeks too early to enjoy the display of wild garlic and later bluebells that bloom on the banks of Piggishawe Brook which runs far below the path on this section of the walk. Finally, a short section of boardwalk led us back to the carpark.



Sam Chappell

Walk report 27 April

Sixteen of us enjoyed the continuing dry and sunny weather on a pleasant seven mile walk in the Cheshire countryside.



The surroundings of historic Gawsworth Hall and church at the start of the walk are particularly attractive with fine views of the Peak district hills on the horizon.

The walk took us through fields, along country lanes, parkland and a stretch of the Macclesfield canal where we had coffee by the first of the twelve locks making up the Bosley flight. We walked on to North Rode and the parkland of North Rode Hall where we stopped for lunch on a grassy bank. The return took us by the fishing pools of Gawsworth where lively fish were in evidence, before returning to our starting point by the church.

Louanne and Peter Collins

THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF U3A

A new film campaign showcasing how members' lives have been changed for the better by u3a has launched on the u3a YouTube channel. The first film focuses on Upholland u3a member Geoffrey in his Musicians group. He says, "u3a and being part of this group has given me an excuse to play guitar more. I play guitar everyday now for a few hours at least. I had no incentive to do that before. This band gives me that incentive."

The series spotlights u3a members and the impact that u3a has had on their lives. Using members featured in the Do Something Brilliant Today film, it goes into each members' story in more detail. Films will be released weekly on the u3a YouTube channel.

[Watch the video on our YouTube channel now.](#)

THE REGENT MARPLE

The Regent Cinema Marple is housed in a building known as the Union Rooms. This was gifted to the people of Marple by the local benefactor, Thomas Carver. Housing a library and a mission hall, it was meant to be a diversion from the many pubs in the area. Later it became the Marple Congregational Church. It was bought in 1931 by Ernest Allen and turned into a cinema.

The first film to be shown was "Sunshine Susie". Since then it has screened many hundreds of films. During lockdown it clocked up 90 years of almost continuous service to the people of Marple and the surrounding area. The owners are planning belated celebrations including the showing of "Sunshine Susie" once more in August.

We are indeed privileged that we have such a unique cinema on our doorstep, and I am sure that Thomas Carver himself would be delighted to know that his legacy lives on.

Sheila Harrop

Hazel Grove boasted two cinemas in the early years of the 1900s. There was the Cosy Grove cinema on Commercial Road and the Marcliff, or later the Warwick, on Macclesfield Road.

The Hazel Grove Cinema was opened on 3rd February 1913. The architect was Charles Robert Locke of Stockport. It had a 16ft wide proscenium. In March 1929, new operators took over and they installed Western Electric (WE) sound equipment when "The Donovan Affair" became the first 'talkie' to play at the now re-named Grove Cinema on 10th March 1930. In November 1946 another operator took over and it was re-named Cosy Grove Cinema. It was closed in June 1961, to be demolished with plans for a supermarket to be built on the site, but these plans were refused. In October 1961 plans were approved to build a new postal delivery and sorting office on the site and the Cosy Grove Cinema was demolished soon after. <http://cinematreasures.org/theaters/50290>

The Marcliff Cinema was opened on 12th October 1937. It was operated by Stockport based builder Clifford Ogle, named after his two children Margaret & Clifford. The Marcliff Cinema was designed by Manchester based architect Herbert McLellan, and had a stadium plan for its seating, with a raised stepped section at the rear, rather than a conventional balcony. There was a free car park for its patrons. In October 1949 it was taken over by the Warwick Cinemas chain and was re-named Warwick Cinema in January 1950. It was taken over by the Frank H. Fortescue Repertory Company as a live theatre and they re-opened the Warwick Theatre on 19th April 1954 with the musical "Me and My Girl". The Warwick Theatre was closed on 19th January 1957.

Do any members have memories of these cinemas? Please contribute your stories.

NORTH WEST SUMMER SCHOOL 2022

<h2 style="margin: 0;">North West Region of U3As</h2>	 <small>Registered Charity No: 1159891</small>
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invite applications for the 2022 Summer School

**Residential Summer School Tues 16th August – Friday 19th August
At University of Cumbria, Fusehill St Campus, Carlisle, CA1 2HH**

An opportunity to learn in the inspiring setting of historical Carlisle



The Fusehill St campus is located in the centre of Carlisle and less than 15 minutes' walk from Carlisle Railway Station. The campus has modern facilities, student en-suite rooms with Wi-Fi access. A large room is available for meeting and socialising. There will be a quiz on the first evening and a "Gala Dinner" on the third and final evening.

Full Board Residential Delegate: £345. (+£10 car parking charge if applicable; +£15 field trip surcharge for archaeology, geology and famous art movements courses) We include full board for 3 nights, including dinner on 16th August, breakfast, lunch and dinner on 17th August, breakfast, lunch and gala dinner on 18th August, and breakfast on 19th August. Also, tea and coffee refreshments on each day.

Non-Residential Day Delegate: £180 (+parking and field trip surcharge if applicable) includes lunches, teas and coffees, excludes breakfast daily and dinner on Tuesday and Wednesday but does include the gala dinner on 18th August. Accommodation is available nearby in the Carlisle city centre.

An Application form must be completed by post or email, Payment can be either by bank transfer (North West Region of U3A's, Lloyds Bank sort code 30-90-16, account 00197002 quoting name and post code) or by cheque (payable to North West Region of U3A's)

DO NOT SEND PAYMENT UNTIL YOUR APPLICATION IS CONFIRMED (SEE BOOKING NOTE 8)

queries should be directed to Alan Hough on 07544 359125 or

alanhough1949@gmail.com

Post to 8 Salwick Close, Wigan, Gtr Manchester. WN3 6RE

The 7 courses on offer are:-

Archaeology: "Archaeology of the Borders"; **Art Challenges:** "Memories of Childhood"; **Geology:** "Evolution of the Carlisle basin"; **Literature:** "North-North-West"; "Ukulele – a course at intermediary level"; **Art:** "famous art movements", and Colourful Knitting.

Full course synopses available separately.

Quiz answers

Cork	Phlebitis
1942	Holborn and St Pancras
Bermuda	Bob Dylan
Julia Gillen	3
1988	
Horses	