

u3a High Lane

Newsletter

May 2023



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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the May 2023 edition of the High Lane u3a newsletter. Thanks to all the contributors for their interesting and informative contributions.

In this edition, we have reports of the April monthly meeting and the recent travel group visit to the Yorkshire dales. The cover image is a picture of the impressive gardens of the Dales hotel. We also have reports of group activities and information about social events your committee is organising for this year.

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.

This edition of the newsletter is accompanied by the National Office bitesize newsletter for April. 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 June 2023 so please send your contributions to me by 30th May 2023 at newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk

Diane Saxon

SOCIAL EVENTS

WINE EVENING – There are a few remaining tickets for the wine evening on 26 May. We will start with a glass of fizz, followed by a tasting of three white wines and three red wines and plenty of cheese and biscuits. All for just £15.

ANNUAL LUNCH 2023 – This year's annual lunch is on Friday, 7th July Friday at Hazel Grove Golf Club. Our three-course lunch offers a choice of tempting dishes. We will be joined by our guest speaker, Jill Trumble from Stockport Heritage Trust. The cost is £30 which includes tea or coffee and gratuities.

You can get your tickets for these events at the May meeting or by contacting André directly.

MONTHLY MEETING

The speaker at the April monthly meeting was Barry Daykin whose talk was entitled From rationing to Les Mis. As a young boy from Lancashire Barry followed in his father's footsteps and became a brass instrument player. He started on the cornet in the CWS band and soon progressed to The Scotch Guards where he played at The Trooping of the Colour and Winston Churchill's funeral. He became a student at The Manchester College of Music which was followed by a short teaching career. An unfortunate accident which involved a split lip caused him to change to the trombone. An amazing professional career followed in which he played in the BBC Northern Orchestra recording music for such stars as Terry Wogan and Jimmy Young on Radio 2. He played on Songs of Praise with Harry Secombe. He played in a variety of venues at home and abroad in all the well-known musicals and rubbed shoulders with the stars. He enjoyed his time playing on the cruise ships. His career continued, playing in the Manchester Police Band and more touring with Les Miserables and The Sound of Music. He finally retired in 2019 after an illness which caused problems with his teeth. Barry related his memoirs with a dry wit and interspersed his talk with amusing anecdotes and beautiful playing on the trombone and the French horn. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the talk and were in awe of his varied and enthralling life.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 10th May when the speaker will be Sue Holden talking about Suffragettes and Scones.

Kath Wareham

REMEMBERING A FORMER HIGH LANE U3A CHAIRMAN

Clubs change with the times, members come, members go.
Memories fade inexorably, old age does get us so.
Now only the oldies will remember, of whom I now speak;
Who stood 'fore us monthly, always strong, never weak.

'Twas a u3A High Lane Chairman, he was called John.
The one before Steve, a decade or more gone.
Always pleasant – smile and chuckle – whenever he spoke.
Nothing fazed him at meetings. A really good bloke!

Once he walked, played mean bridge, sequence danced round the floor.
City blue through and through; alas, he's no more.
Family and friends paid him homage, another good man gone.
Sorely missed but remembered. RIP John.

Walter Mason April 2023

GROUP NEWS

ART

It was great to see Brian pick up his paint brushes again after a long break from actual painting. Seascapes are his favourite. Well done Brian, looking well again.

The art group has planned a visit to the Patchings art festival in July. This is an annual event for all budding and professional artists.

If you would like to join our art group, please contact Brian Chadwick. We meet every Thursday afternoon at the memorial hall at 1.30 – 4 pm. There is a nominal charge of £4 which includes a cuppa and a biscuit with a chance to have a wander round mid-way through to look at everyone's artwork and have a friendly chat.

Madeleine Hennessey
Val Brown



GERMAN

We continue with the usual mix of conversation and reading our book, now almost finished. This week was enlivened with my discovery of a 1944 Ministry of Defence German phrase book when we learned some vocabulary we would hope never to use.

Marlene Brookes

TRIVIAL PURSUITS

The trivial pursuits group had a very convivial evening on Saturday 15 April. We gave our brains a good workout.

Jean Barrow

CANASTA

I'm pleased to say that we had a few people interested in canasta at the new members open day on 31st March. We are a friendly group with no pressure – we just play for fun. Time is 7 – 9 on a Tuesday at The Royal Oak in High Lane.

Please come along if you would like to learn, or drop me a line if you have any questions

Pauline Wright

CRIME FICTION READING



The Crime Reading group met again on Friday 7 April with a good turnout of nine.

We had been reading *The Nine Tailors* by Dorothy L Sayers. This book was first published in 1934 and features Lord Peter Wimsey. The story is set in the Lincolnshire fens and bellringing plays a large part.

As usual, there were mixed views. Three of us really enjoyed it, but three didn't at all and found it rather dull. Many felt that there was far too much detailed bell-ringing information and that there were too many characters. The style is very much of its time and so seems very dated, but most felt that this was acceptable.

The group meets again on Friday 12 May, and we will be discussing *Careless Love* by Peter Robinson.

Lesley McCall

CINEMA

Since the pandemic I have been keeping members informed of films being shown on TV and highlighting new releases which they might enjoy at the local cinemas. I am hoping to organise trips to matinees at both the cinema and local theatres in the near future. My thanks go to Lynn; a new member who is working on this at the moment.

There is no limit to membership of the group and if you would like to join, please follow the links on the website.

Sheila Harrop

CURRENT AFFAIRS

The first subject that our small group discussed was: ARE WE TURNING AGAINST THE MONARCHY? We talked about the revenue they bring in and what they cost the country. The fact that the Danish Royal Family cost their country a lot less. One member talked about Charles doing very good work and reminded us that he's visited more underprivileged people than any politician. We thought that young people were losing interest in the royals but decided the monarchy would survive maybe in a different form.

Other subjects we covered were:

WATER COMPANIES pumping sewage into rivers. We all agreed that they would rather pay their shareholders large dividends than clean up their act.

TAXES: Apparently in Scotland people pay higher taxes but get better services. Some in the group thought there was a case for higher taxation in the rest of the UK providing we got better services.

UNITED STATES: Joe Biden, is he too old to run again? we were unanimous on this and said yes, he's too old.

SUDAN CRISIS: Why It took the UK longer to get their citizens out. France, Germany and other countries got their citizens out much quicker. We didn't know why but put it down to complacency by the government.

Other subjects discussed were funding for schools, should it be illegal for the nurses to strike, and did we think that black people experienced exceptional prejudice. It was an interesting session, not too many sparks but with the usual witty remarks from Trevor and Margaret's tea and cake, what's not to like.

Betty Smith

MEMOIRS

Our offerings were varied and as entertaining as ever. We started with two poems about loss and "Dreamland" (a wasteland where children could play out in the good old days). Childhood escapades and nicknames followed. Then a holiday in Arizona in Indian territory and an apprenticeship in mechanical engineering. More recent was a Golden Wedding held under lockdown complete with photos. The most poignant was a memory of a Polish lady who was exiled to Siberia in WW2.

Our brief for next month is to highlight a significant event in recent history.

Sheila Harrop

PHOTOGRAPHY

This month's competition was A Child's toy.

- 1st Lego technic – Diane 8 votes
- Joint 2nd Joint smart – Derek 5 votes
- Monkey – Diane 5 votes



Thanks everybody.

The topic for this month is Headgear. Why not have a go?

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

Jeff Robinson

READING

Our April book was HAROUN AND THE SEA OF STORIES by Salman Rushdie which met with mixed reviews. Written for his young son, the story told the fable of Haroun's quest for stories after his storyteller father runs out of inspiration. He embarks on an Arabian Nights' style voyage to rescue stories from those who would rob the world from the magic of the imagination. Some of us felt it would make a wonderful animated film.

Our next meeting will be the first Monday in June when we will discuss THE LIE by Helen Dunmore.

Marlene Brookes

TRAVEL



Holidays

Carlisle 23 – 26th June. County Hotel.

Ireland 20 – 24th August. Balance due at July meeting.

River Cruise 4 – 11th October. Balance due at JUNE meeting.

Day Trips

Saturday 17th June. Port Sunlight and Lady Lever Art Gallery. £28

Payment due at May meeting.

Saturday 29th July. Sudeley House and Liverpool. Approx. £24.

Payment due at June meeting.

Information at Wednesday meetings.

Contact Margaret McDermott or Ruth Smith.



Images from [Wikimedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/)

TRAVEL GROUP VISIT TO NIDD HALL, YORKSHIRE

On Monday 10th April, thirty three excited u3a members climbed aboard the Ellen Smith coach for our trip to Nidd Hall, a Warner hotel. The rooms were lovely, but it took some of us about fifteen minutes to find their room as the hotel was a maze of corridors. We all enjoyed the food, and the entertainment was good, but the highlight was Bernie Flint. We were all doubled up with laughter.



Sue put a lot of work into organising the trip and found some interesting places for us to visit, ably assisted by Margaret. Who could forget Richard, our lovely coach driver? He was a star. We all felt safe with him driving.

Thank you Sue.

Barbara Kenneth

Royal Armouries, Leeds (Day 1)



The Royal Armouries at Leeds was our first stop after leaving High Lane on route to Nidd Hall. The purpose-built museum contains a wealth of armour and weapons. There were demonstrations outside and inside showing how the weapons were used.

An enormous elephant armour and tusks greeted us when coming out of the lift to a floor mainly of guns and rifles. Henry VIII's combat armour made in

1520 for the grand tournament took pride of place amongst the armoury section.

There was so much to see our short visit didn't do the museum justice, therefore I certainly will be going back and perhaps it could be a planned u3a day visit in the future.



Castle Howard (Day 2)

Castle Howard is a stately home in North Yorkshire. It is a private residence and has been the home of the Carlisle Branch of the Howard family for more than 300 years. Although building work began in 1699 the construction of Castle Howard took over 100 years to complete, spanning the lifetime of three Earls. Built from East to West the house took shape in just under 10 years. The construction of Castle Howard was finally completed in 1801-1811 with the decoration of the Long Gallery.

The Howards have continued to live in the House ever since it was built by Charles Howard, the 3rd Earl of Carlisle, at the beginning of the 18th century. There was one brief interlude when it became a girls' school during World War II.



A large part of the House was destroyed by a fire which broke out on 9/11/1940. The Dome, the central hall, the dining room and the State rooms on the East side were entirely destroyed. Antonio Pellergrini's ceiling decoration, the Fall of Phaeton, was lost when the Dome collapsed. In total twenty pictures and several valuable mirrors were lost. The fire took eight hours to bring under control. The east wing remains a shell although it has been re roofed.

In 1952 Castle Howard was opened to the public by its then owner Lord Howard. It is now owned by a Howard family company and managed by Nicholas Howard and his wife Victoria. There is also a pleasant walled garden to walk round and also a splendid fountain and a couple of lakes. An enjoyable day was had by all.
Paul Kenneth

Birds of Prey (Day 3)

The National centre for Birds of Prey is situated at Duncombe Park. Birds of Prey, sometimes known as raptors, are generally speaking, carnivorous birds that hunt using their feet. Many of the birds here are used in spectacular flying displays and are part of very important breeding projects.

We were treated to an excellent flying display with four of the birds. The two handlers were very knowledgeable. The bird first was the tiny terrestrial Burrowing owl, the second was the Falcon, the third was the Brown wood owl and the fourth was the Grey Buzzard Eagle. Watching these birds take to the skies was magical. Once or twice they flew so close, you could feel the wind from them as they flew past.



Many species in the wild are currently facing major threats to their survival, and this includes several species of birds of prey. Some species are in real danger of becoming extinct. Once a species goes extinct it is lost forever.

There were also many birds in large aviaries which we were able to view. As it was a bitterly cold, windy day we made for the cafe and had a hot soup and cheese and ham toastie when the display had finished.

Paul Kenneth

Workhouse Museum, Ripon (Day 4)

A visit to the Workhouse Museum in Ripon didn't sound like much fun when on holiday. However, it turned out to be a fascinating insight into how the poor were treated. We had an excellent guide who took us round the grim atmosphere. This has been carefully preserved – a stark contrast to the provisions made now. Definitely a visit to make you think how fortunate we are to be living in the 21st century. Afterwards there was time to visit the market and have a snack lunch. The 7th century Cathedral was well worth a visit before the coach driver took us on a tour of the local villages.

Betty Upham

RHS Harlow Carr (Day 5)

After a short journey from our hotel, we reached RHS Harlow Carr where we had time to wander around the beautiful gardens. Having been there last August it was fascinating to see the change in the landscape. I thoroughly enjoyed the kitchen garden where gardeners were busy planting out various vegetables in neat rows to grow on for the forthcoming season. Fruit trees were flowering, early rhubarb, garlic, peas, lettuce and chillies were amongst the vegetables grown using local and heritage varieties. The beautiful crab apple hedge was beginning to blossom as the fast-growing season begins.

Unfortunately, it began to rain and it was cold. The queue for "Betty's" tea room was long and slow to progress and I thought rather expensive. However, our coach and driver returned early and took us on a lovely drive through the Yorkshire Dales.

Instead of visiting Skipton we decided to avoid getting wet and cold and go to Boundary Mill. We had booked to eat at Banny's Fish and Chip shop for tea so a couple of hours retail therapy for the ladies was welcomed. After a hot meal we were homeward bound arriving at Alderdale Drive at 8pm. Our driver, Richard had been excellent, going out of his way to please everyone and carefully navigating the narrow roads.

Sue Harlin

WALKING



Our April walk in Derbyshire, led by Ruth and Dave Smith, attracted 23 people. Initially, we enjoyed a bright start in weak sunshine, whilst visiting the ancient parish church of St Margaret in Wormhill. Alas, duller conditions developed later, however the day remained rain free. Wormhill and district feels isolated in former times with little change, after all, it got a mention in the Domesday book!

Our onward progress to Hargate Hall was hampered by very slim pinch stiles, set in a succession of limestone walls.

Peter Dale, always a delight, was equally quiet, we had it to ourselves.



An enjoyable and interesting walk. We must venture into the High Peak again soon, now that Spring has sprung!

David Burke

NEWS FROM NORTH-WEST u3a

Smart Devices Research project – Laura Pemberton, a PhD student at the Manchester Business School, is seeking participants for a research study involving older adults, over the age of 60, who are able to come to the Manchester Business school to take part. The purpose is to look at the preferences older people have regarding smart home technologies. Participants will be exposed to different kinds of smart home devices and then will complete a questionnaire and an interview. It will take about an hour a half, and each participant will get tea/coffee and an Amazon voucher as a thank you for their time. Travel expenses cannot be met, but free parking can be arranged. Timing will be geared to allow free bus pass use. The research is funded by BT.

If interested, enrol via this link <https://tinyurl.com/3vyv637t> where there is more information about the project, or email Laura at: laura.pemberton@manchester.ac.uk

The Big Sing – There is still time to register for the Big Sing in Liverpool on May 10th. Details are on the NW website. You can ignore the closing date. Registration will be accepted right up to the event.

NW volunteer 'coffee morning. June 7th on Zoom – There are many volunteers in u3a – committee members, events planners, refreshment organisers, 'meeters and greeters' – to name but a few. It's important that we recognise and value their contribution to our wonderful organisation. As part of the National Volunteer Week, we would like to invite members to join an informal Zoom meeting and chat with other people around the region about what goes on in their u3as. Let's celebrate our volunteers. Register at <https://forms.gle/LdT2yzqWsL5Z7Av6>

NATIONAL OFFICE LEARNING EVENTS FOR MAY

Some talks you might want to book. Remember they can fill up quickly. All are free via Zoom. Click here for details and to book a place.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

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| 2 – 10 May | A series of talks related to Hadrian's Wall. |
| 15 May | Neglected historic buildings |
| 16 May | Bletchley Park and the UK WWII code breakers |
| 17 May | Family history |
| 23 May | Cryptic crosswords |
| 25 May | Their finest hour remembrance project |

u3a 2023 Short Story Competition

The u3a national short story competition is back for its fourth year, and the judges are looking forward to seeing what creative writing talents members have to offer. The theme for this year's competition is: 'Decision(s)'. Your story must be your own, individual, original work, in English, a maximum of 1500 words, and not submitted anywhere else.

We will once again be partnering with Bloomsbury for this competition and are delighted that Bloomsbury will be supplying copies of the 2023 Writers' and Artists' Yearbook to the 12 top entries. The winner will also see their story published in Third Age Matters magazine, which reaches over 250,000 households, with a bespoke illustration to accompany it. Bloomsbury has also provided a discount code which enables 30% off any Writers' & Artists' title ordered via bloomsbury.com, and 10% off any product (event, course, editing service, Listing subscription) ordered via www.writersandartists.co.uk. The code to use on both sites is: U3AWRITERS

The form to upload your entry will be available here [u3a - Short Story Competition 2023](#) on Tuesday 2 May 2023. Entries need to be submitted via the online form to be accepted.

The deadline for submission is 12 noon on Monday 26 June 2023.

Happy writing!

And finally

Did you know – 12 May is National Limerick Day which pays homage to Edward Lear who wrote 212 limericks and made the short poems widespread. Lear is known for his nonsense-style, often writing with made-up words, telling tales of "Quangle-Wangles," and "runcible spoons."

