

May 2013

A THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to members who answered the plea for volunteers to help run our Wednesday meetings. Rota's are being drawn up and you will be contacted very soon.

Margaret McDermott

SUPPORTING NEW GROUPS AND GROUP PROJECTS

At a recent Committee meeting it was agreed that we would support the initial development of any new group with a small grant. Similarly, if an existing group has a specific project that requires some funding, we will consider a grant provided that the money provides some medium term benefit to members i.e. we would not support say subsidising a one day trip.

If any member or group wishes to put in a request for consideration, they should contact Margaret McDermott or Derek Hill.

FROM THE EDITOR

I'd like to say thanks to the group leaders for sending me their reports in good time for the newsletter. Thanks also for your photos and information about your forthcoming events. Several members have said they found this section useful. In this edition we have a quiz. There are no prizes but I hope you find it fun.

The next edition of the newsletter will be the July edition. Please can you get your contributions to me by Friday 28 June? My email is dsaxon@bcs.org.uk.

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WINE TASTING

At the April meeting we had an amusing and informative talk from Ian Bostock about his life in the wine trade. He described his experiences as a junior in a well known Manchester wine company and some of the malpractices that went on in the early days. Joining the EU brought many changes to the wine industry and we can be much more confident about what we are drinking. Members then enjoyed a taste of an unoaked Australian Chardonnay produced by the Jacob's Creek winery which is located in South Australia and is Australia's largest wine producer.



Ian finished his talk with some interesting statistics including the fact that we drink 20 litres of wine per head each year in the UK and 90% of the wine sold in the UK is sold by supermarkets.

RESEARCH INTO AGEING AT MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY

The Faculty of Life Studies at Manchester University is running a project on the effect of ageing on the senses of sight, hearing and touch. Samuel Couth, a research student from the University will be coming to the May meeting to talk about the project. He is investigating how the ageing process affects our ability to combine sensory information and what effect this has on eg. balance, crossing the road, making a cup of tea etc. He will be asking for interested volunteers to take part in testing sessions at the University.

STOCKPORT COLLEGE SUMMER SCHOOL

The programme of courses for 2013 is:

- July 15th Universal suffrage in the 19th Century
- July 16th Modern electronic technology and how it works
- July 17th Exploring the universe from Jodrell Bank
- July 17th From crime scene to court
- July 18th Richard III
- July 19th Crime scene investigation

Courses run from 10 am to 4 pm. The fee is £25 per course except Jodrell Bank which is £29.50 to cover the coach fare from Stockport College to Jodrell Bank.

Bookings can be made from now until the end of June. Places are limited and booking is on a first come basis. We have an application form on our U3A website and there is more information about the courses at

http://www.hIGHLANEU3A.org.uk/d4_information/Summer_School_2013.pdf.

There will be a few application forms at the May meeting but you can also get one by contacting Catherine Swiffin at Stockport College (tel 0161 296 5852 or email catherine.swiffin@stockport.ac.uk).

TRADES PEOPLE

We are compiling a list of local trades people who have done good work for us. So far, the list is quite short so we would welcome suggestions from members. Please give your suggestions to a committee member so we can add them to the list.

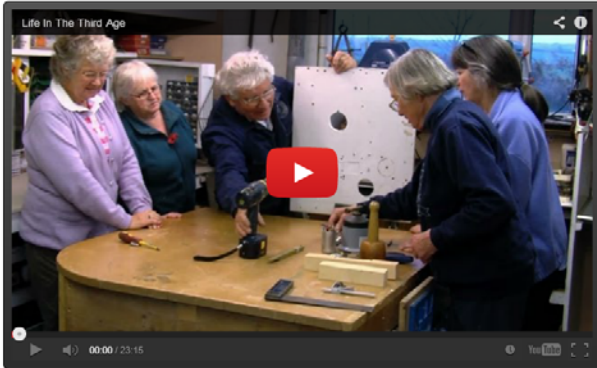
"This list is for High Lane U3A membership only and details will not be published on our web site without written permission of the Tradesperson and the name & details of the High Lane U3A Member recommending them also being published."
WEBMASTER.

Any member requiring this list should request a copy from our Secretary at a monthly meeting or wait for an update in your circulated newsletter.

LIFE IN THE THIRD AGE - U3A TV PROGRAMME

Life In The Third Age

Posted by CommunityChannelTV | 08 April 2013, 02:43 | 0 Comments | ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



This programme is being shown a number of times during May on the Community Channel (Freeview channel 87, Sky 539). The programme lasts about 25 minutes. The screening times are

Thursday 2nd May @ 10:30am
Thursday 9th May @ 5:30pm
Friday 10th May @ 12pm
Sunday 12th May @ 4:30pm
Friday 17th May @ 12pm
Sunday 19th May @ 7:30pm
Tuesday 21st May @ 8pm
Thursday 23rd May @ 7:30am
Friday 24th May @ 7:30pm
Sunday 26th May @ 7:30am
Friday 31st May @ 6:30am
Friday 31st May @ 4:30pm

Alternatively, you can view it on the Community Channel website at

http://www.communitychannel.org/video/n1T3-rMCNRs/life_in_the_third_age/

DIARIES

The Third Age Trust is already taking orders for 2014 U3A Diaries. This year the colour of the cover is burgundy. The price remains the same at £2.00 including postage. Order forms will be available at the June monthly meeting.

U3A COURSES

There is a range of online courses available for members on the main U3A website. The tutored courses are now full but there are some untutored courses that you can sign up for and study at times that are convenient for you.

Currently available are:

- Digital imaging
- Garden history
- Creative writing: fiction
- Creative writing: poetry
- Write to good effect
- Writing for publication
- Italian art: 1400-1600 (level 1 - suitable for beginners)
- Artists of Spain (level 2 - requiring some knowledge)
- Venice and her artists (level 2 - requiring some knowledge)
- Visiting artists in Rome (level 2 - requiring some knowledge)
- Great Northern European Artists

Untutored courses are free of charge. You can find more details of the courses and an application form at http://onlinecourses.u3a.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=21&Itemid=38

MASTERMIND

The BBC is looking for Mastermind contestants. Do you think you have what it takes to sit in the famous black chair and have your general knowledge and choice of specialist subject tested to the limit by the quizmaster, John Humphrys?

You can fill in the online application form at www.bbc.co.uk/mastermind or email mastermind@bbc.co.uk.

FRENCH AT U3A POOLE, DORSET

The French group at U3A Poole, Dorset has developed some resources in conjunction with the Group Leader's Parisian friend which they wish to share with other U3As. The resources are free to use and are aimed at French improvers and beginners. The site is <http://froggish.host22.com/>. The group also has a Facebook page!

The stories vary in level of difficulty; Le cyclist can be regarded as fairly easy. Les aventures include all levels of difficulty and have proved very popular. The site enables the reader to take time to try to emulate the speaker's pronunciation and the complete programme of stories contains a substantial vocabulary.

IT BUDDIES

IT buddies is a new scheme designed to bring together members who need help with their computer and members who can offer help. This can range from very basic help in getting started to help on specific topics such as email, internet, Skype etc. You will be using your own computer so the help will be very relevant to your needs.

There are many new types of computers appearing at the moment; ereaders, tablets, iPads, Smartphones etc. These are designed to be much easier to use than the traditional PC.

Please contact Pat Christopher if you would like to take advantage of the scheme or offer your help.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can use your Smartphone to read Kindle books?

You just need to download the Kindle app to your phone then tell Amazon your phone number. You then buy the books in the normal way and they are sent automatically to your phone.

All new books are available in the Kindle store and normally at a lower price than the paper version. As well as that, many Kindle books are free to download and there are many books available for less than £1. I recently downloaded the QI book - 1,227 facts to blow your socks off – for 20p.

OLDER & WISER BOOKS

This series published by Wiley in partnership with the Third age trust comprises nine books covering different technology related topics. They are written in a straightforward, jargon free way with step by step instructions throughout. Perfect for individual reading if you're struggling with a particular topic, so you can take yourself through the book chapter by chapter at your own pace in the comfort of your own home.

The titles are:

Computing for the Older and Wiser
Computing with Windows 7 for the Older and Wiser
The Internet for the Older and Wiser
iPad for the Older and Wiser
Laptops for the Older and Wiser
Microsoft Office for the Older and Wiser
Family History for the Older and Wiser
Digital Photography for the Older and Wiser
Social Networking for the Older and Wiser

QUIZ: DETECTIVES AND THEIR AUTHORS

You will have heard of most of these detectives but can you name the authors who created them?
(Answers on page 12)

1. Miss Marple
2. Sherlock Holmes
3. Reginald Wexford
4. Lord Francis Powerscourt
5. Ian Banks
6. Thomas Linley
7. Tom Barnaby
8. Lord Peter Wimsey
9. Father Brown
10. Jules Maigret
11. Philip Marlowe
12. Bob Skinner
13. Kurt Wallander
14. George Gently
15. Jack Frost
16. Albert Campion
17. Roderick Alleyn
18. Adam Dalgliesh
19. Commissario Guido Brunetti
20. Andy Dalziel

HIGH LANE U3A NEWSLETTER

www.hIGHLANEU3A.org.uk



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

7 May Note Date change	Woodford Wander A 5 mile easy walk between Woodford and the Bollin
7 May	Music appreciation group – 20th Century music
10 May	Closing date for entries for the photography competition for the 2014 Third Age Trust calendar.
15 May	History Group meeting – A brief history of the class system
15 May	Gardening Group visit to Dunge valley
16 May	Art group visit from Sandra Orme
16 May	NT Live Screening: This House Screened live via satellite from the National Theatre. Plaza Stockport
18 May	Screening of the Bolshoi ballet Romeo and Juliet at Stockport Plaza.
18 May	Organ Concert Coffee Morning Free to attend organ concert featuring the famous Compton organ. Fundraising for the ongoing maintenance and restoration appeal of Stockport's 1932 Art Deco Plaza Theatre - 10am till 1pm.
23 May	U3A North West AGM and Festival. Venue: Chester Cathedral. Address from Barbara Lewis, chair of Third Age Trust, presentations, tours and organ recital.
22 May	Theatre group visit to Buxton Opera House. A Trio of Ballets, performed by the Birmingham Royal Ballet
30 May	Art group visit from Richard Prime
30 May	Craft and Needlework Group lunch
5 June	Churches and Pubs Group visit to St Leonard Downham, Lancashire. £5 deposit.
9 June	Holidays and visits trip to Great Central railways, Loughborough

12 June	Monthly meeting. Bernard Loveday talks about the Development of Medical Science
14 June	NT Live Screening: The Audience. Helen Mirren reprises her Academy Award winning role as Queen Elizabeth II in the West End production. Plaza Stockport
15 June	Theatre group visit to The Royal Exchange Theatre. The Birthday Party by Harold Pinter
20 June	Charity Bowls Competition. Victoria Park Bowling Club, Southport. North West U3As are especially invited to enter the competition.
3 July	Churches and Pubs Group visit to St Margaret's (Marble Church) Bodelwyddan. £5 deposit plus £2 for guide and tour
8 July	North West Region of U3As. Confidence in Committee - seminar aimed both at members who are confident about sharing their experiences with others and members who perhaps are interested in taking on an officer post but need some ideas or confidence building. Manchester. Free to NW U3A members.
10 July	Monthly meeting. The True Story of the Mutiny on the Bounty. Talk by Eric Roth.
14 August	Horticultural Show – Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A Open Gardening Group
14 August	Monthly meeting. Debate: Britain should leave the European Union
21 August	Choir performing at All Saint's Marple.
2-6 September	Holiday and visits group trip to Northumberland
26 September – 12 October	Educating Rita at the Lowry
18-21 October	London visit

GROUP REPORTS

ART GROUP

We are having two visiting artists in May. On 16 May we have a visit from Sandra Orme a Buxton Artist. She is brilliant with Pastels, and her skies and seascapes are absolutely fantastic. I expect a full house. On 30 May Richard Prime is visiting the group. He is also a Pastel artist; his main subjects are animals, dogs, cats and horses. We are really looking forward to his visit.

Brian Chadwick

BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 1 & 2

Meetings February 1st & 20th

Programme 1: Hobson's Choice

This production by the Northern Ballet Theatre is a feel good story, about a Lancashire Shoemaker who makes good. There's lots of fun in this ballet and wonderful dancing which everybody enjoyed.

Programme 2: The Marinsky Theatre

This documentary is about the Marinsky Theatre ("the backbone of the Kirov Ballet"). This famous ballet company had lots of troubles to contend with during the hard years of the Russian political regime, which was very much against the classics, not just ballet but also music, making life very hard for the dancers and the musicians to practice and rehearse without being spied on. The group was able to enjoy ballet clips of some of Russia's greatest dancers, some of whom defected to the West. Rudolph Nureyev, Natalia Makarova and Mikhail Baryshnikov all joined The Royal Ballet. After four years Baryshnikov went to America and joined the New York City Ballet and in 1980 he assumed directorship of the American Ballet Theatre.

Meetings March 1st & 20th

Programme 1 Coppelia

This is a modern version of a very traditional ballet, the music by Leo Delibes and danced beautifully by the Paris Opera Ballet. Although it is very contemporary the story is still the same. We all enjoyed the flamboyant costumes, the beautiful music and the superb choreography of this well loved ballet.

Programme 2: En Sol (from the Tribute to Jerome Robbins)

This is a quirky little ballet from Jerome Robbins who choreographed many ballets and musicals in his lifetime, including Westside Story, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers and many other musicals and ballets.

Sheila Hall

BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 3 & 4

27th February/6th March: Our Frederick Ashton season continued with Fonteyn and Nureyev in Marguerite and Armand, followed by Scenes de Ballet performed by the Royal Ballet as part of their celebration of the centenary of Ashton's birth. The afternoon concluded with one of my favourites, The Dream. This is a very accurate presentation of Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', danced to Mendelssohn's glorious music.

27th March/3rd April: Dance in America (1). The work of George Balanchine. A documentary on Balanchine was followed by a selection of his pieces which included Apollo and The Steadfast Tin Soldier.

24th April/1st May: Dance in America (2). This session is looking at the work of more modern choreographers, including Jerome Robbins, Mark Morris and Antony Tudor.

Note: there is a screening of Romeo and Juliet danced by the Bolshoi Ballet in on 18th May at the Stockport Plaza cinema. Highly recommended!

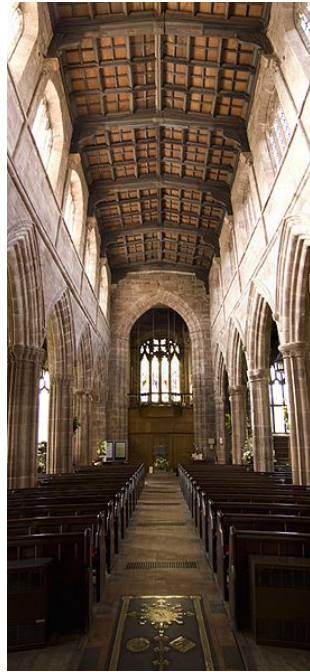
Meg Humphries

CHURCHES AND PUBS GROUP

Visit to St. Mary and All Saints Great Budworth, Cheshire. April 3rd

The first trip for the start of the sixth year of Churches and Pubs was on a cold but sunny day and saw 42 of us set out for Great Budworth in Cheshire. If you have not been to Great Budworth it is well worth a visit. It is a very pretty village with houses of many ages and kinds, and at the heart sits St. Mary's, a lovely red sandstone church.

We were met by the local historian Robert Steele who gave us an excellent talk on the history of the church which dates mainly from the 15th and 16th centuries, though the Lady Chapel dates back to the 14th century. All the exterior walls are battlemented. Inside there is much to see including a fine 15th century font and five 13th century oak stalls, thought to be the oldest of their kind in Cheshire. There are several memorials to the Warburton family including one made of alabaster to Sir John Warburton from 1575 and one to Sir Peter Warburton from 1813. Next to the lychgate, which was erected in 1920 as a memorial to the dead of World War 1, are 18th century stocks



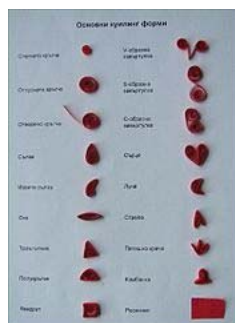
After lunch in the George & Dragon, opposite the church, most of us had a walk round the village where you could buy fresh eggs and homemade jam.

Paul Kenneth

CRAFT & NEEDLEWORK GROUP

At our last meeting on Thursday, 18th April, nearly all of us learned something new. Lesley Edwards gave us a class in quilling, something she really enjoys and is really good at. Quilling is a craft which was very popular in the 19th century which creates designs from curled strips of paper.

Lesley brought some prepared cards for us with a design which we then tried to execute, some with more success than others. We enjoyed the experience and are hoping to learn something new in the coming months. On May 30th we have our annual lunch at the Royal Oak in Strines.



Marlene Brooks

CROWN GREEN BOWLING GROUP

Some U3A members may already be aware of the proposed changes to our facilities and maintenance of Stockport Parks and Greenspaces. It has been proposed that they reduce their maintenance input, which will impact on all areas of our local parks. Without regular maintenance of grass cutting, flowerbeds and shrubberies, litter collection and repair and replacement of play equipment for children, our Parks, which are very precious to all members of our community, could become 'no-go' areas. Also closure of some bowling greens is in their proposals.

There is information on <http://www.stockportgreenspace.org.uk/> or you can email admin@stockportgreenspace.org.uk. Stockport Council is carrying out a public consultation – local libraries have questionnaires for people to complete or you can comment online at <http://www.stockport.gov.uk/services/councildemocracy/yourcouncil/haveyoursay/programmeforchange/parkandopenspaces/>
Do have your say.

On a much lighter note, we have an 'Away Day' planned for the 24th May and are off to Prestatyn for a friendly competition with a team that a member of our group plays with at weekends when he is staying there. We will join them for some social bowling followed by a competition, then a meal at the local carvery. It looks like being a very enjoyable day.

Margaret Evans

DISCUSSION GROUP

On the 20th March the topic introduced for discussion by Jim McDermott was "the pros and cons of EU membership". If ever a subject was full of twists and turns and uncertainties it is the EU. The Internet is full of opinions both for and against and statistics by the bucketful supporting arguments on both sides. It was pointed out by one member of the group that the books of the EU have never been audited so nobody knows how the money has been spent since its inception.

We were reminded of the era of massive surpluses which were sold to a grateful USSR but which opened the door to criminality and corruption because of the way the Common Market bureaucracy was organised and operated. The Commissioners tell us that there is now no opportunity for similar criminal activities but it seems that UKIP does not believe it. Their leader often quotes unsubstantiated statistics about Gravy Trains and expenses fiddles and the cost of the EU Parliament etc. If we ever have a referendum on membership of the EU it will be a lot of fun sorting the fanciful from the hard facts. Amongst the aims of the EU is the "levelling up" of the less prosperous nations which could have many benefits for the EU including lower migration. However, the majority of the group thought that leaving the EU was not a good idea and would not be beneficial for the UK.

On April 24th the topic for discussion introduced by Pam Curley was the concept of "loyalty". It is defined as "a strong feeling of support or allegiance" but we found that that explanation was not conclusive. Discussion produced examples which showed that loyalty is rather nebulous and sometimes difficult to grasp. A football fan can have an unbending loyalty to a particular team or Club and will associate very closely with the team as if belonging to a family. But the Club is a business and not a family; there is no reciprocal family loyalty. The concept of loyalty cards issued by some retail businesses is an odd one. Are they saying that possession of it makes you loyal to them or vice versa? The position of conscientious objectors in WW1 also posed a seeming contradiction. They were loyal to their beliefs but were accused of disloyalty to their country. So it seems that it is possible to experience loyalty and disloyalty simultaneously. Many of them volunteered to be First Aid Orderlies, ambulance drivers etc. but they were still accused of disloyalty because they wouldn't kill. Is that really being disloyal?

What about our canine friends? They can exhibit strong signs of loyalty to the person who feeds them but is that what we mean by loyalty? Or can it be that some other emotion is being masked by the label of "loyalty"? We agreed that loyalty is a vague concept to grasp and each example which was given could be explained as something else masquerading as loyalty.

Jim McDermott

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

On Thursday 18th April we had a very informative talk by Sharon and Ian Hartas who run a number of free genealogy web sites. It opened our eyes to the amount of information available above and beyond the web sites we have been using so far and we are hoping for a return visit later in the year.

On Saturday 27th April seven of us attended a workshop at the Dome in Buxton organised by the Peak District Family History Network.



Mark Bayley gave us a number of helpful hints on 'Breaking Down Brick Walls' and was followed by Cliff Housley who told us the type of information available in Military Museum Archives. After lunch, provided by the catering students, we were treated to Raymond Rush and an amusing talk on old Birth, Marriage and



Death customs. Entitled Hatch, Match & Dispatch customs; it was well up to his usual standard.

The day finished with an informative talk by David Lambert on 'Probate and Wills'. We were all very grateful to Ian Taylor of Buxton U3A who did most of the organising and hope the event will be repeated next year.

We have two remaining meetings before we stop for the summer. These will be 16th May and 13th June. We will restart in September and will be glad to welcome any new members with any level of experience from absolute beginners upwards. Please contact Pat or Sue for further information.

Pat Christopher

GARDENING GROUP

Wednesday 20 March

Shahnaz Chowdrey was a welcome host for eight members of the gardening group. We saw a number of garden slide shows, looked at a small collection of Hellebore flowers, and discussed a number of garden issues.

17 April 2013



Eight members visited Bluebell Cottage Garden/Lodge Lane Nursery on a windy, but sunny day. With the extremely cold Spring, plants are weeks behind schedule, so no bluebells, the cowslip meadow was still in bud, and the flower garden had hardly sprung into life, so we were given free entrance. But there were plenty of varied primulas, pulmonarias, and others, and the woods had wood anemones, celandines, and many badger setts, so plenty to interest us. Interestingly, the RHS magazine The Garden has just featured this garden/nursery, and showed how gorgeous it can look at its summer best.

The current owner of the garden is Sue Beesley, a former winner of Gardener of the Year. When we visited, she was busy with a potting workshop for a group of 12 – a useful reminder that Spring must spring soon, and there will be plenty of gardening jobs to keep us busy.

Walter Mason

RHS Top jobs for May

1. Watch out for late frosts. Protect tender plants
2. Earth up potatoes, and promptly plant any still remaining
3. Plant out summer bedding at the end of the month (except in cold areas)
4. Regularly hoe off weeds
5. Open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days
6. Mow lawns weekly
7. Check for nesting birds before clipping hedges
8. Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs

www.rhs.org.uk

MARPLE BRIDGE AND MELLOR U3A OPEN GARDENING GROUP

Meetings are held at Marple Methodist Church, Church Lane, Marple on the second Wednesday of every month (except on excursion days). Meetings start at 9.45 with coffee; the meeting commences at 10.00 a.m. The cost is £1.50 including coffee. Talks are on everything from violets to vegetables, pansies to potatoes. There are practical demonstrations and occasional outings to gardens both great and small.

Forthcoming meetings and visits

8 May	Growing Veg – emphasis on containers and raised beds by Conquest Plants Nursery
12 June	“Late again – reliable late bloomers for every garden” Janet and Martin Blow of Special Perennials, Hankelow talk about late flowering perennials.
11 July	“Herbs are life enhancing” – an illustrated talk by Jan Greenland of the Herb Society.
14 August	Horticultural Show – Members of the Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A Open Gardening Group

GERMAN GROUP

We have continued to meet most Fridays and have had interesting discussions on some of the varied texts we have read together. These have included "Mini Krimis" from a popular magazine and experiences of a German teenager, transported to Siberia in 1945.

Five members of the group together with three spouses will be travelling to Dresden on May 1st where we hope to put our language skills to good use and to learn more about life in a part of Germany unknown to most of us.

Marlene Brooks

HERITAGE GROUP

On the 9th April over 45 members of the Heritage group set off on a trip into Wales to visit the world heritage site, the Pontcysyllte aqueduct and the house at Erddig. We arrived early at the Trefor boatyard, which was just as well as we were in the wrong place; we needed to be on the other side of the canal to get to the point of embarkation. After squeezing into Jones the boat's barge and consuming a welcome hot drink and biscuits, we set off on our crossing of the world famous aqueduct which carries the canal over the river Dee, 126 ft below. The aqueduct, designed by Telford and Jessop was completed in 1805 and is 1007 ft long. Those of us who ventured on to the deck were amazed to see that we were kept away from a very long drop by a few inches of metal, and that was really quite scary!

After this amazing experience we set off to visit Erddig, about two miles south of Wrexham. Erddig had been home to the Yorke family for 240 years but was handed over to the National Trust in 1973, seven years after the last squire, Philip Yorke inherited it from his brother. By that time it was in a very poor state of repair and Philip (all the Erddig squires were called Philip or Simon) was living in the only two rooms in the house that were habitable. Since it was opened by Prince Charles a few years later, it has become one of the trust's most popular houses.

It is still a working estate with stables, a smithy, a joiner's shop and a sawmill. We were able to meet Jerry, one of the magnificent and very large shire horses which still work on the estate.



What makes Erddig so special is, however, the large number of painted portraits of servants from the 18th and early 19th centuries and the photographs of later servants which adorn the walls. It was obvious that there was a close relationship between the squires and those who worked for them and that they were held in affection and esteem by their masters, so much so that next to each portrait there was a poem of several verses in honour of the servant depicted.

For Jane Ebbrel, 1793, retired housemaid: "for seventy years, or near have pass'd her, since spider-brusher to the master"; for William Williams, 1793, blacksmith: "our Erddig smith, who fifty year, was surgeon-general to the gear" and Thomas Rogers 1830, carpenter: "another chip from nature's block, is added to the parent stock".

Although the house itself was not as grand as many we have visited in the past, there was much of interest to see, including a primitive shower, some impressive mother of pearl sculptures made by an 18th century lady of the house and some beautiful Chinese hand-painted wall paper. From the windows we had views of the magnificent gardens, not looking their best after our awful winter but we could appreciate how they would look after a few months of good weather. Many thanks to the organisers, especially Pat Gorie and Margaret McDermott.

Marlene Brooks

HISTORY GROUP

At the meeting on 10th April Steve Reynolds gave a very interesting presentation entitled 'Shakespeare's World'. It emphasised the fact that very little is actually known about his life beyond his literary output: 39 plays and 154 sonnets.

There are many years of his life about which nothing is known and of the portraits purported to be of Shakespeare, only the Chandos portrait is accepted as being genuine. Another very interesting aspect relates to the number of words and phrases invented by him of which eight hundred are still in common use today, for example, penthouse, one fell swoop, play fast and loose, be in a pickle and budge an inch, to quote just a few.



The next meeting will be on the 15th May, 7.30pm at Irene Bentley's. The title of this presentation is 'A Brief History of the Class System' by Liam Canavan.

Pam Curley

HOLIDAY AND VISITS GROUP

JUNE 9th	GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY 1940s event at Loughborough. Coach and train ticket approximately £30. The train ticket entitles you to travel on any train all day with enactments at different stations along the Loughborough to North Leicester preserved railway. Balance due at May meeting.
2-6 September	NORTHUMBERLAND Last few places. 4 nights half board at the Vermont Hotel Newcastle. Cost £279. Single supplement £45. Visits to Lindisfarne, Bamborough, Craggside and Alnwick. Balance at July meeting.
18-21 October	LONDON 3 nights half board at Holiday Inn Heathrow. Cost £329. Single supplement £30. Includes visits to Windsor Castle, Kew Gardens and Palace and Royal Kitchens, evening performance of War Horse at the New London Theatre, guided sightseeing coach tour of London and Blenheim Palace. Balance at August meeting.
19 November	LIVERPOOL Day visit by coach. Cost £28. Includes tour of St. George's Hall, lunch at the Adelphi Hotel and a cruise on the Mersey Ferry. Deposit £10 at August meeting.

READING GROUP

The U3A Reading Group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at Sue's house. Our book for March was 'When will there be good news?' by Kate Atkinson. I would recommend this book; it is well-written and gripping. It's quite a thriller but with humour and many eccentricities. The plot hinges on a series of unlikely coincidences which could be seen as a criticism but coincidences do happen don't they?

Our April book is 'A Thousand Splendid Suns' by Khaled Hosseini, the author of The Kite Runner.

Sue Dintinger

SINGING GROUP

The High Lane U3A Choir gave a concert at Norbury Parish Church on April 20th and raised over £400 for charities. There was a full house and the performance was widely felt to be the 'best ever'.



The Programme included a very varied programme of music including works by Elgar, Franck, Saint Saëns, Boccherini, Blake, Tom Paxton and medleys of Abba and Eva Cassidy songs featuring solos from several members of the choir.

A card received from Norbury Church organisers says "thank you so much for the wonderful evening's entertainment that the U3A Choir provided last Saturday. Everyone really appreciated your very varied programme with so many soloists."

Margaret and Tony Glynn

STROLLERS GROUP

The Strollers group normally meets on the last Monday of each month at 9.45am outside High Lane Village Hall. We walk locally usually for one to one and a half hours at an easy pace avoiding hills and stiles where possible. There are eight members walking regularly, sometimes more. We are a friendly group so if you have some free time then you are very welcome to join us. We do not use cars; if we need to travel further afield we use our bus passes so it is always a good idea to bring it with you!

It is a Bank Holiday on May 27th which happens to be the last Monday in May; therefore the walk will NOT take place. Normal Strolling will continue in June.

June Gibbs & Jean Goldsmith

WALKING GROUP

WALK REPORT – WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH

Twelve members joined Alison Allerton for a walk in the snow. Rerouted from snowdrift bound Whaley Bridge back to milder High Lane, our six mile walk was on familiar ground near Brookside farm to the Elmerhurst Trail, past Lyme Hall to West Gate, then by Green Farm down to the canal, to return to High Lane. But that simple route took on a splendid variety of moods on the patchy snowy ground, as the

weather oscillated between mild sunshine, snow showers, and cool breezes. Some stretches were slippery, and one gate was jammed in a snowdrift, but we all coped well. We relaxed with a coffee stop in Lyme, and a diversion to the Boars Head at Higher Poynton for a welcome lunch. We thanked Alison very much as she set off back to snowy Whaley.



WALK REPORT APRIL 9TH 2013

Jeff Mortimer led his first walk for us, which was a seven mile foray from Taxal up the Goyt valley to Fernilee Hall and return. Six members enjoyed a very pleasant day with plenty of sunshine, but with an on and off cool breeze. Spring flowers were conspicuous by their absence, as the remnants of snow drifts were still around in exposed places. The going was dry and easy, except for a snow bound section behind the hall. Jeff told us something of the history of the Cromford inclined plane/tramway, and also of the history of Errwood Hall, before we climbed up to the restored private cemetery.

Then it was an easy walk back by Errwood and Fernilee reservoirs through the ancient bluebell woodland of Park Wood, to skirt Taxal church, and a quick up and down back to the cars, thanking Jeff for his first leadership walk,



WALK REPORT APRIL 24TH 2013

When Roger Drinkwater recc'd the route from Parwich, snowdrifts lined the quiet, narrow access lane. But today, on a warm pleasant day, daffodils and primroses were scattered on the banks, as ten of us started our 6½ mile walk from this attractive out-of-the-way village, as we crossed a succession of rough meadows in the wide valley leading to the hillock village of Bradbourne. After a coffee stop and quick look at the interesting Norman church, we descended through a snowdrop wood towards the hamlet of Ballidon, where the roof of the ancient chapel was being re-roofed.

Ancient turned to modern, as we ascended the road past the busy Ballidon and Hoe Grange quarries, although most of the massive quarries were hidden, and soon we went up a quiet track, with buzzards circling above, to bisect the two quarries on a carefully constructed green bridge.



After lunch, and a study of two fossilised objects, we continued near Twodale Barn and along Backhill Lane, before taking a slanting path above Ballidon Hall, with a backdrop bank of daffodils, and flying a flag for St George. We still had time to look at the rebuilt church of Parwich, thank our walk leader, and persuade the landlady of the Sycamore to refresh us.

Walter Mason

Quiz Answers - how did you do?

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Agatha Christie | 2. Arthur Conan-Doyle |
| 3. Ruth Rendell | 4. David Dickinson |
| 5. Peter Robinson | 6. Elizabeth George |
| 7. Caroline Graham | 8. Dorothy Sayers |
| 9. G K Chesterton | 10. Georges Simenon |
| 11. Raymond Chandler | 12. Quinton Jardine |
| 13. Henning Mankell | 14. Alan Hunter |
| 15. R H Wingfield | 16. Margery Allingham |
| 17. Ngaio Marsh | 18. P D James |
| 19. Donna Leon | 20. Reginald Hill |

Don't forget to send all contributions for the next newsletter to me at newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk by Friday, 28 June 2013. Thank you.