

FROM THE CHAIR

Your Committee is currently working on arrangements for two social events this year both of which will be in the Autumn. We are planning a repeat of the very successful wine tasting evening in late September. There will be six new wines for you to sample accompanied by some light refreshments. Arrangements for the second event are not yet finalized so more details will be available later in the year.

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

Membership currently stands at 420 members, 29 of whom are new this year. Most of our members live in High Lane and Hazel Grove – and now we have a new road to get us to our group meetings!

We have looked at your suggestions for new groups which you indicated on your membership form. There are several where there are sufficient numbers to start a group but we will need volunteers to lead them. Our Groups Coordinator Doreen Scotte will contact those interested. However, many ideas have only one person interested and therefore are not viable. Please talk to Doreen if you need any further information.

Diane Saxon

THIRD AGE TRUST CONSULTATION

You may have heard that the National Executive Committee (NEC) has been conducting a consultation process with U3A members regarding the future structure of the Third Age Trust. The working group has now reported its findings and these have been accepted in principle by the NEC. The NEC will promote networks of U3As such as the Greater Manchester Network of U3As of which High Lane U3A is already a member. Other proposed changes are mainly to the structure and governance of the Third Age Trust and do not directly affect individual U3As. The findings will be published in the June issue of the Third Age Matters magazine.



The new Road!

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WHEN ATTENDING YOUR GROUP MEETING

Please let your Group Leader know whether or not you will be attending the meeting. Some members are not doing this and it can cause problems for Group Leaders when arranging accommodation and equipment.

FROM THE EDITOR

Items for the newsletter from members are always welcome so if you have any suggestions for content or articles of interest to U3A members please contact me at newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk

The next edition of the newsletter will be the July 2016 edition. Please can you get your contributions to the editor by 30 June?

MONTHLY MEETINGS

MARCH MEETING

We enjoyed a talk and slide show on 'Gardens through the Year' presented by Walter Mason. Some highlights were the snowdrops at Rode Hall and the bluebells at Etherow. During the presentation Walter showed some pictures of the Walkden gardens in Sale; small but well worth a visit.

APRIL MEETING

At the April meeting, members were treated to a talk about the Mellor Dig given by Anne Hearle. The dig was one of the largest excavations in North West England. The finds included artifacts from Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British and Medieval times.

ANNUAL LUNCH

Some 85 members gathered at Hazel Grove golf club for the annual lunch. The food and ambience were once again very good and the quiz as challenging as ever. Thanks to Committee members for their efficient organisation.

U3A AT THE RI: BIODIVERSITY, ART AND SCIENCE, AND CRYPTOGRAPHY

The latest in the series of Royal Institution lectures for U3A audiences took place in London on 16 March 2017. This year's topic was biodiversity, art and science, and cryptography. Chaired by Pam Jones, members were treated to three lectures; Alison Fairbrass – New technology for monitoring London's wildlife; Chiara Ambrosio – What does art have to do with science?; Chris Darby – Cryptography

The presentations from last year's event are online. See <http://richannel.org/an-introduction-to-anomalistic-psychology> for Chris French's talk on anomalistic psychology. The Ri Channel has a huge range of recorded talks on scientific topics. This could form the basis of a local event for our members. Please let the editor know if you would be interested in this.

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-2017> or get details at the Art Gallery.

U3A ONLINE

U3A Online is an Australian initiative and is a virtual U3A operating exclusively online. U3A Online provides short courses for older people who enjoy learning but prefer the freedom to study where and when they choose. In addition they produce U3A Gems a monthly newsletter which contains interesting articles and information. This is a picture of the April 2017 issue.



The newsletters are available online at <https://www.u3aonline.org.au/content/gems>

INTERESTED IN LEARNING NORWEGIAN?



This is just one of the totally free FutureLearn courses starting during May. Here are just a few starting in May.

Norwegian	Mindfulness
Nuclear energy	Social media
Finance	Japanese culture
History of the Quakers	Maths puzzles

You will need to register for the course(s) by clicking the Join link on the relevant web page. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses>

TRAVEL GROUP ACTIVITIES

Contact: Margaret McDermott or Ruth Smith

17-22 May	CORNWALL Information re final arrangements in the small hall after the May meeting
20 June	CLAYTON HALL £4. Suggest 10:03 train from Hazel Grove then Metro
14-28 July	CRUISE. British Isles from Southampton on P&O Adonia
28 Aug–1 Sept	IRELAND. Flight from Manchester to Dublin at 08:05. 4 nights HB at Westport Woods Hotel. Visits to Kylemore Abbey, Ceide Fields, Museum of Country Life. Own coach. Return flight from Dublin at 19:00. BALANCE at JUNE MEETING
22-23 Sept	STAMFORD £99 SS £20 1 night HB at PARK INN BY RADISSON, Peterborough. Visit to Calke Abbey and Georgian event in Stamford. PAYMENT AT JULY MEETING
23-27 Oct	BERLIN £424 SS £94 (Entrance fees not included TBA). Flight Easyjet from Manchester to Berlin at 06:30. 4 nights HB at Tryp by Wyndham Berlin City East. Return flight 17:50. BALANCE AT JULY MEETING

OUR U3A ACTIVITIES

10 May	The Mysterious Life of Agatha Christie by Pat Osborne
14 June	The Kinder Mass Trespass by Keith Warrender
12 July	The King and I by Norma Walmsley
9 August	Tax, care and toy boys by Oliver Hill
13 Sept	Antiques, auctions and TV by Nick Hall

NATIONAL U3A EVENTS

7 June	NW Region AGM and Conference. Manchester
14 June	National Gallery: first impressions. £20.50
21 June	Learning in the future. Warrington
8 - 11 Aug	Annual Science seminar. Harper Adams University, Telford.
29 Aug-1 Sept	Summer School. Newton Rigg College, Penrith.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

25 March-30 July	Embroidery and landscapes of Tatton park. Tatton park.
13 Apr- 20 May	Twelfth Night. Royal Exchange Theatre.
15 April – 30 May	Stockport Photographic Society 125 th Annual Exhibition. Stockport Art Gallery.
20 Jan 17 – 29 Jan 18	Strawberry Studios I am in Love exhibition. Stockport Museum.
2-6 May	Casanova. Northern Ballet. Lowry
4-5 May	Tosca. Buxton Opera House
7 May and 11 June	Didsbury Village gardens; 7 gardens to visit
7 May	Plant hunters' fair. Adlington hall
11 May	Obsession. NTLive. Various venues
11 May	Lunchtime Organ Recital. Jonathan Scott. Bridgewater Hall
13-14 May	Tatton Park Country Show
17-20 May	Insignificance by Terry Johnson. Garrick Stockport.
18 May	Who's afraid of Virginia Wolff. NTLive. Various venues
19 May – 20 Aug	Object Lessons. Manchester Museum.
20 May – 17 June	The thread that binds us: the Mersey. Stockport Art Gallery.
21 May	Regency dancing. Lyme Park
22 May	Lunchtime organ concert. Stockport Town Hall
24 May	Kitchen garden tour. Tatton Park
25 May	Six Hands. John Williams, John Etheridge & Gary Ryan. Bridgewater Hall
27 May	From Daguerre to Digital: a history of the camera. Stockport Art gallery.
27 May	Pemberley Walk. Lyme Park
31 May	Walk the Walls. Lyme Park
4 June	Orchid show. Tatton park
4 June	The Hallé and BBC Philharmonic. Bridgewater Hall
4 June	Sunday Wurlitzer Organ. Stockport Town Hall
5-6 June	Classic cars. Tatton Park
10 June	Peter Pan. NTLive. Various venues
10 June	Plant sale. Chadkirk Chapel.
11 June	Plant hunters' fair. Arley Hall
22 June	Salome. NTLive. Various venues
24 June	Organ coffee morning. Plaza
26 June	Lunchtime organ concert. Stockport Town Hall

GROUP REPORTS

BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 3 AND 4

22nd March / 6th April:

We watched a Gala from La Scala, Milan. The Gala was timed to coincide with Milan's tenure as host city of EXPO2015. In a varied programme, La Scala's star dancers were joined by guest dancers from around the world - only one of whom, Melissa Hamilton, was from The Royal Ballet.

26th April / 11th May:

We saw a performance by The Bolshoi Ballet of The Flames of Paris. Staged in 2010, this was a very colourful depiction of events during the French Revolution. It featured lively music, folk dancing and a spectacular pas de deux.

Next on the agenda is The Paris National Opera Ballet's staging of La Petite Danseuse de Degas.

Meg Humphries

CANASTA

The Canasta group is up and running with members from High Lane U3A and some members from Marple and Mellor.

The game of Canasta was devised by Segundo Santos and Alberto Serrato in Montevideo, Uruguay, in 1939. In canasta, players attempt to make melds of seven cards of the same rank and "go out" by playing all cards in their hand. It is the only partnership member of the family of Rummy games to achieve the status of a classic.

We meet weekly on Tuesday evening 7pm at the Royal Oak, Buxton Road, High Lane and usually play until about 9pm. A few of us meet at 5.45/6pm for food prior to playing and members are welcome to join us. We do have one stipulation and that is as we are in a public house members must purchase a drink from the bar. They serve tea and coffee, (also decaff) as well as regular alcoholic beverages

Please contact Les or Rosemary Birks

CHURCHES AND PUBS

St. Oswalds, Brereton, Cheshire

The first visit of the 10th year of Churches and Pubs took us to St. Oswalds Church at Brereton. We were greeted with tea, coffee and biscuits. A good start.

The church is situated to the north of the village of Brereton Green, adjacent to Brereton Hall, on the banks of the river Croco. It is a grade 2 listed building and is an active Anglican parish church.



There has been a chapel at Brereton from the reign of Richard I (1189-99). Sir William Brereton built a church at Brereton about 1200 to fulfill a promise he made on the third crusade and dedicated it to St. Oswald of Northumberland. Brereton was originally in the parish of Astbury and became a parish in its own right in the reign of Henry VIII (1509-1547). The original chapel was probably made of wood as some is still visible at the junction of the nave and chancel. The church was rebuilt in the 15th century in the late perpendicular style. Like many churches in the area, St. Oswalds was restored in the 19th century by Gilbert Scott. Among the many features of interest inside the church are the 17th century altar rails and 16th century Flemish choir stalls. The font has the date of 1660 on it. Many decorated medieval fonts in Cheshire were destroyed by puritans in the civil war period. There is also a parish chest with three locks and on display near the south door is a bell from 1591.

On the north side of the sanctuary is a Brereton memorial. High on the wall above is displayed some armour which may have belonged to Sir William Brereton. In the east corner of the south aisle is the monument of William Smethwick who died in 1643.

We then drove to the Legs of Man pub for an excellent three course lunch.

Paul Kenneth

CINEMA

Cinema Club has had two trips to the Regent Marple recently.

On 16th March we saw "Jackie". Despite a brilliant performance by Natalie Portman in the title role, it was rather a disappointment

Our next film was "The Viceroy's House". This is a really well made film, which brought back memories of the traumatic events when India gained independence. Technically it was superb, combining contemporary footage with the drama.

There are several good films coming up. If you would like to join us please let me have your contact details

Sheila Harrop

CRAFT AND NEEDLEWORK

At the end of March we had our annual post-Christmas lunch at the Crown in Hawk Green. As always, it was a very pleasant meal, mainly fish and chips, which was enjoyed in good company.

In recent weeks I have been able to send off two more parcels of knitted items to Knit for Peace.



We are hoping to welcome some new members at our May 4th meeting.

Marlene Brookes

CURRENT AFFAIRS

March meeting

We met once again to discuss various items from the press or TV. Among them were George Osbourne and his many jobs, also not taking devices on planes and the new figures out regarding women over 70 still working. Apparently they have risen.

We also looked at a very interesting piece from Finland where they are considering paying everyone a basic living allowance for food etc. (working or not) and abolishing all benefits. It will be interesting to see if it works. Apparently other countries are watching it.

Jim Summers

April Meeting

Much of the discussion centred around Brexit and the coming parliamentary election. We thought that the election is purely about Brexit and leadership (Teresa May mentioned strong leadership at least ten times in the last PMQs and made very personal remarks about the leader of the Labour Party) and that an increased majority will make no difference to negotiations with the EU. This was soon verified by comments from EU leaders. The election should not be in June but after Brexit is completed and the majority of the group thought that there should be an opportunity to vote on whatever terms are offered.

We heard that in Japan and Germany a special tax is levied entirely for social care. Considering the problems with care in the UK we thought that this idea should be adopted and that most people would be willing to pay more tax provided that it is earmarked for this purpose.

Children being taken on holiday in term time was discussed. Most thought that some holidays can be educational and the decision should be left to head teachers' discretion. However, we found it difficult to come to a conclusion as to whether parents should be allowed to take their children out of school at all and whether there should be fines for doing so.

Doctors say that younger people can keep their brain cells active by regular physical exercise. What about 70/80/90 year olds? We did not have any original ideas and fell back on joining an organisation to meet people such as U3A, Probus etc. Join a quiz group, do crossword puzzles, learn a language, play a musical instrument.

Assuming the Conservatives win the election, what taxes would increase? We could only think of the usual ones - fuel, alcohol, national insurance contributions.

One member had read that railway companies were considering removing first class carriages. We thought it might be a good idea on commuter trains but they should remain on other journeys.

Sometimes our discussions can be rather heated as there are so many different opinions but we invariably agree to differ amicably.

Margaret Mc Dermott

DANCING

The ballroom dancing group is meeting monthly during the summer months, but would still welcome any dancing couples to its relaxing and friendly meetings.

Walter Mason



DINING

In April, the Dining Group had a record number of diners, 44; some of whom were new members. We were delighted to meet them and hope we will see them again.

The John Millington in Cheadle Hulme has been transformed from a beautiful small historic hall into an attractive pub and restaurant. Inside it has an open plan design with a host of period features. The dining area is separate from the pub and we had a very enjoyable three course meal.

We could not let this lunch go by without mentioning the staff under the direction of Gavin, the manager. The service, attention and help we received, particularly from Gavin was above excellent.

The next time we dine will be in June when it will be our evening outing. Names will be taken at the May meeting.

Jeanette Bell
Dorothy Neillands

FAMILY HISTORY



The group is continuing to hold lively and successful meetings. We are investigating a range of genealogy related topics and will shortly be looking at memorial inscriptions and old maps among others.

A number of our members will be attending the annual Family History conference in Buxton in September which always an informative day out.

2018 will mark the centenary of the end of WW1 and we are already looking to expand the display of our WW1 relatives we staged a few years ago. If you are a newer U3A member and have any information about a relative who was involved in this conflict, we would love to hear from you so please contact us.

Pat Christopher, Sue Harlin.

GARDENING

At a house meeting in March, Freda entertained the group with ideas for simple flower arranging.



In mid April we visited Lea Gardens, possibly the most impressive of the local azalea/rhododendron gardens, which were full of colour which we really enjoyed.

Walter Mason

GERMAN



I recently received the sad news that Alan Beresford, a member of the group from Marple, had died just before Easter, aged 90. He was with us for only a few months before Christmas but made a big impression with his excellent German, initially learned from prisoners of war, working on the land around Marple and then from his work as a clockmaker in Germany.



In the past few weeks we have studied our usual mix of political articles and crime and human interest stories, as well as hearing of interesting holidays taken both at home and abroad. In our pre-Easter meeting we read about the pagan history of Easter eggs and other Easter customs. My offering of hot cross buns was rather eclipsed by the lovely German lamb cake baked in a special mould by a member of the group, Lesley Richards. It tasted delicious!

Marlene Brookes

HISTORY

The subject of this month's meeting was The First Afghan War 1839, a subject rarely discussed today as it represented the greatest humiliation ever suffered by a British Army.

After the defeat of Napoleon, the British Empire needed a new enemy and found it in Russia, who they thought would be anxious to seize India via Afghanistan, so the East India company decided to bring about a regime change in Kabul by installing their man, Shah Shuja in the place of Dost Mohammad, an able ruler who had no interest in an alliance with Russia.

Despite early success, the behaviour and ineptitude of the army alienated the Afghans, who rebelled and forced them to withdraw in the depths of winter. Of the thousands who entered the country only a handful survived - and all for nothing! Dost Mohammad was restored to the throne in 1832 by the very people who had ousted him.

This story had everything: a dashing, attractive spy, rich young officers with their foxhounds, camels carrying eau-de-cologne, Windsor soap and a military wine cellar, ladies bringing along their pet cats and parakeets, the Koh-i-Noor diamond - all expected a wonderful adventure but it ended in disaster - the first tragedy of what Kipling called "The Great Game". On entering Afghanistan, they were warned by a tribal chief: "You have brought an army into the country, but how do you propose to take it out again? The same warning was issued to the Russians in 1979 and the Americans in 2002.

Much of this talk was based on two excellent BBC programmes made by Rory Stewart entitled "The Great Game" available online on Youtube; well worth watching!

Marlene Brookes

OPERA APPRECIATION

14th / 28th March.

We saw The Royal Opera in a recent production of Puccini's Soeur Angelica. This is the second of three one-act operas, collectively known as Il Trittico. It contained some beautiful music and fine singing from the all-female cast.

We also watched an introduction to the opera Ercole Amante (Hercules in Love).

11th / 25th April.

The introduction to Ercole Amante of the March meeting was followed by the full performance.

Staged by The Dutch National Opera, this was a very entertaining version of an early opera by Cavalli.

For the next meeting, I intend to show The Pearl Fishers from the Metropolitan Opera, New York.

Meg Humphries

PHOTOGRAPHY

The "Moonlight" competition had this very atmospheric picture take by Walter as the clear winner. Meanwhile Jeff's stall at the March monthly meeting aroused potential interest from one or two members. "Easter" is our next competition at Jeff's house in May. Hopefully we can gauge progress in our new venture, to produce an attractive local calendar for sale later in the year. Watch this space!

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 fruit and veg quiz for the refreshment break. In April, Irene's categories were names, Numbers and Have you Noticed?; and we did a tour of some of London's landmarks with our coffee.

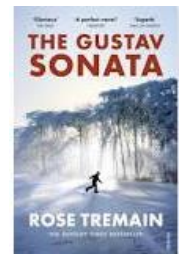
At the end of March, a team of quizzers successfully took part in the quiz at St Thomas church gaining second place - although they claim they should have won!

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

READING

On March 15th, a small group of enthusiasts held a meeting to try to revive the Reading Group. We are planning to start up again on Wednesday May 10th at 10 pm at 4 Rostherne Avenue in High Lane; too late for those reading the paper version of the newsletter but not too late for those reading online. Future meetings will be held on Wednesday mornings in the second week of the month (the same day as the monthly meeting, as this is convenient for those who live outside High Lane and who also wish to attend the monthly meeting).



Our first book choice is "The Gustav Sonata" by Rose Tremain. Even if you haven't read the book, you would be welcome to attend to see how things work. If you have any questions, please contact me by phone.

Marlene Brookes

SHAKESPEARE GROUP

We are currently reading Henry VI (part 1) in which the seeds are sown for the Wars of the Roses. We should complete this play at our next meeting on Monday May 8. The meeting after that is scheduled for Monday June 12.

Any member interested in joining us please contact the undersigned; they will be very welcome.

Steve Reynolds

TRAVEL

U3A Visit to Cartmel and Holker Hall

A group of 46 members boarded the coach for a day out on a sunny Saturday morning. A few comments will say how the day progressed.

- Everything was in our favour. A memorable day.
- Had a fabulous day, our first U3A trip!



- A little rushed in Cartmel, only had a short time to look around after our lunch, but didn't spoil our trip.
- Tour of Holker Hall well worthwhile and of course the good weather made the day."
- Thank you for a lovely day. There has been lots to see and learn about. An excellent day out.

Please come to the TRAVEL TABLE at the next U3A meeting for future visits and holidays.

Ruth Smith

WALKING

Wednesday Walk 29th March 2017



The walk started from Strines Recreation Ground car park. We walked along the River Goyt and then upwards past Strines station. Steady climbing took us towards the Banks where a right turn up a narrow path eventually brought us to Soldier Nob and the damaged Cross and a coffee stop. We were now at a height of around 1000 feet as we passed the trig point and headed across Mellor Moor with fine views of Cobden Edge to our left.

After reaching Boundary Cross we found a stile on Primrose Lane and crossed 3 fields before reaching Stony Piece. With New Mills Golf Club at Whitle ahead

of us we took a right turn to walk in front of Shaw Farm and pick up the path to Brookbottom.

After sandwiches and a beer at the Fox Inn we walked gently downhill back to Strines to complete the 5 mile walk. David thanked Steve for leading what had proved a most enjoyable local walk

Steve Reynolds

Tuesday Walk 11th April 2017



Ten of us met at Sparrowpit Village Hall for a walk led by Jeff Mortimer, which was slightly longer and more strenuous than usual.

Following the path past Rushup Farm, we came across a monument to the memory of a young man who had died at an early age. After a group photograph, we proceeded past Rushup Hall, crossing Sheffield Road to pick up the bridal path past Lord's Seat and onto the ridge of Rushup Edge, with glorious views to the north of Edale and Kinder, and views to the south of the limestone "White Peak".

Descending to the disused quarry at Windy Knoll, we stopped to eat our packed lunch before continuing past some disused mine workings to pick up another bridle path which took us past Eldon Hill Quarries.

Continuing along a country lane, we turned left at a place called the Bull Pit, which we think denoted an entrance to an underground cave system. Passing more disused mine workings, we descended a steep slope before a short steep climb through woodland, continuing through woodland and across some fields, back to the Village Hall.



Jeff Mortimer

Wednesday Walk 26th April 2017



On Wednesday 26th April Brian and Alison Allerton led a group of 21 walkers on a five mile walk from Whaley Bridge. It was a bright but chilly morning as the group left the cars on Long Hill, the road from Whaley Bridge to Buxton.

The old bridleway passed Shallcross Farm, now a cluster of holiday cottages and converted barns, then over the field to cross the line of the old Cromford and High Peak Railway line. This line was used mainly for the transportation of coal from Whaley and limestone from quarries in the surrounding Peak District.

At the junction of Elnor Lane and Old Road stands the remains of the shaft of a stone cross, traditionally dated to the year 832 when St Paulinus visited the area. Climbing quite steeply, the group then followed Long Lane, a rough track which circles Ladder Hill, providing spectacular views over Combs Reservoir and beyond, to Eccles Pike, with Chinley Churn in the distance.

The footpath branched off to climb higher towards Wythen Lache, with excellent vistas towards Castle Naze (an Iron Age fort) and Combs Edge.

After a stop for lunch the path crossed the open moor and in a sudden squall of hailstones we dropped down into the hamlet of Fernilee, accompanied by the calls of a pair of curlews. We continued down to the River Goyt following it through Shallcross woods which were carpeted in wood anemones (too early for bluebells). A steep climb back up to Long Hill completed the walk.

Brian and Alison Allerton