

High Lane U3A Newsletter

www.highlane u3a.org.uk

November 2007



Your Chairman, John McCartney and the Committee
Wish to extend to you all

**A Merry Christmas
And
A Happy and Healthy New Year**



What a Success !

Those of you who were unable to attend the environment Conference missed a treat. The event was well run and the time went very quickly, with interesting and informative speakers who did justice to the subject and gave varying points of view. The meeting showed that there is a lot of sense in local groups getting together on the odd occasion to share our common interests, resources and ideas. It was a triumph for the Pennine Link.

A full report appears on page 4

It was also a triumph for our U3A who hosted the event with flair.

Thanks are due to Steve Reynolds without whose efforts this event would not have achieved its aim. Thanks also to the other members of our U3A who provided refreshments and set out the room. Bring on the next event.

Editor

Christmas Party

Your committee has decided to put on another Christmas party after the great success of last year's.

Your Group Leader has probably asked you to give support to ensure that the party goes with a swing. If you are not in a group and

are able to do something to help the party along, a song, a recital or anything to amuse, please contact Mike Snape who is co-ordinating the show.

All contributions welcome

Editor

Annual Lunch

This year we are departing from our normal tradition of having a Christmas Lunch and are having our first ANNUAL LUNCH.

Details of the Menu are included within this Newsletter, the committee hope that you will support this new venture, albeit at the same venue as our previous Christmas Lunches. We hope that this will make it easier for more to attend this function.

Editor



**The closing date for copy for the next Newsletter is
26th December 2008**

Editors - Ken & Edna Bentley, email - kenedna@aol.com

Debating Group

Wednesday 24th Oct 07 saw the discussion group talking about the merits of letting the punishment fit the crime.

Is amputation of the hand an option? Or is it a step back into the dark days of "an eye for eye etc?"

How can the criminal be made to pay for his/her transgression? Should Capital Punishment be reintroduced? The birch? Do ASBOs have any effect? Is prison a deterrent?

Answers came there none. But we did have a lively discussion and anecdotes flowed like wine.

Jim McDermott

Theatre Group

There will be no further new theatre Productions booked for the theatre for the remainder of this year(2007).

However we will continue to take bookings for the following productions.

Swan Lake performed by

The Birmingham Royal Ballet

at the Lowry Theatre on 2nd April 2008

at 2pm. Tickets £25 plus £6 for coach if required.

Roots a play by Arnold Wester

at the Royal Exchange Theatre Manchester

on Wednesday February 6th 2008

at 2.30pm.

Note this is not the same as the TV drama of the same name.

There will be no coach on this occasion.

June Gibbs

Needlework

Our last meeting was on Thursday 1st November at 10.am.

We are again in the process of producing Christmas cards which will be on sale in the November meeting .

In recent months some members have taken up quilling, but as a needle is also used in this craft, we have decided not to change the name of the group.

Next meeting 15th November.

Marlene Brookes

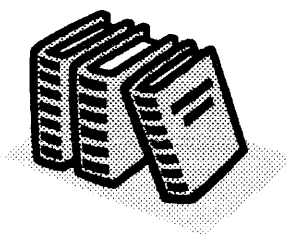
Reading Group

The reading group are presently reading "The Dream of Scipio" by Iain Peers.

Set in Provence at three crucial moments of civilisation in the West. The collapse of the Roman Empire in the 5th century, the Black Death throughout the 14th century and the second world war during the 20th century. It follows the fortunes of three men.

We will be reading poetry at the November meeting, a piece of our own choosing and then having a discussion on them.

The December meeting will be on Wednesday the 5th in the evening.



Come and join us for a good read and instructive discussion

June Gibbs

Crown Green Bowls

The Winter season is underway and the numbers are still quite high with the current spell of mild weather. The Winter green at Torkington is in good condition and the mornings are most enjoyable.

As we look forward to the Summer, a booking has been made at Christleton again on the 26th June. A deposit of £10 per head is required in order to secure the booking, to me please ASAP

Ken Bentley

German Group

We continue to meet on Fridays at 9.30 after a couple of interruptions for a wedding and a holiday. We were very saddened to hear of the sudden death of one of our Forchheim friends (aged 50) just a few days after showing him around the Marple locks at the end of September.

Marlene Brookes

Walking Group

December Walk

The walk in December will be held on the 18th and will be led by Don Heap. Meet at 9.30 am at the Village Hall in High Lane.

The walk will start and finish at the Ring o' Bells pub on Church Lane in Marple. After the walk, there will be a meal in the pub. There are two Menus, one for Christmas Fare at £11.99 and an a-la-carte at various prices.

If you wish to go on the walk please contact Don who will be collecting a £5.00 deposit. If you do not send a deposit there is no guarantee of a meal as the pub is quite busy at this time. The walk of about 4 miles will be easy with only one Incline .

Don Heap

Bridge Improvers

Our Christmas party will be held Thursday 20th December 2007 and will commence at 1.30pm. Contact Chris Gibson if you require further information.

Music Appreciation

The last meeting for this year 2007 will be on Tuesday 18th December at the 2.00pm at High Lane Library. The programme will be 'members choice'. The group will recommence on Tuesday 8th January 2008 and the programme will be decided at a later date.

Contact Alan Leach for further details.

Singing Group

The Singing Group is enjoying the fellowship of singing together and is progressing well.

We are, however, in need of re-enforcement by the introduction of more MALE voices to our group. If you can sing Tenor or Bass we would like you to join us and help to add that extra depth to our

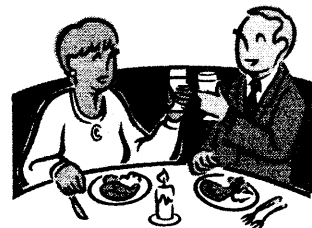
singing. There must be more male talent within our U3A, if it is YOU then come and join us you will be made most welcome.

Caution Caution Caution

If you receive a 'phone call from anyone professing to be either from you bank, or a technician working for the bank, who wants to check your details and asks you to call him/her using 09 or 90. Hang up the call and notify the police.

THE BANK WILL NEVER ASK FOR YOUR DETAILS OVER THE 'PHONE. Always be ultra cautious with any such calls , there are plenty of thieves about after your money.

Never divulge your password or PIN to anyone. The banks are now considering this to be neglect on your behalf and will not pay for any such cases.



Dining Group

The November meal is on Thursday the 29th at L'Ecole Catering college. The list is now closed but those whose name is down need to pay their money on the 14th.

The next meal is February 28th 2008 at lunchtime, at the Dome, Buxton College. Numbers limited to 30.

Edna Bentley

Environmental Conference

Nearly 100 members attended the 1st Pennine Link event held in the High Lane Village Hall. Steve Reynolds from High Lane U3A welcomed everyone and introduced the speakers.

Mike Monaghan

Mike, from Buxton U3A and a strong environmentalist gave an extremely interesting talk entitled "Earth in Balance: 2007, A Turning Point". His message was that 2007 was indeed a turning point and that most people in the UK accept that lifestyles have to change to combat the effect of global warming. Al Gore's film "An Inconvenient Truth" had its critics but had done much to highlight the environmental problems we face today.

China, India & other emerging countries had an entitlement to the same standards we enjoy in the West. The USA was by far the biggest polluter but even there, attitudes were changing fast. Mike is optimistic that governments and individuals are learning to deal with the effects of climate change.

Sue Prince OBE

Sue and her husband live in Dovedale and run an organic dairy farm. They encourage and support rural business development and have won awards for their own self catering accommodation. Sue gave a fascinating account of "Peak District Foods", a group of independent producers working to get local food on local plates. She highlighted the economic advantage to farmers of selling through farm shops or farmers' markets rather than supermarkets. Fresh seasonal produce grown locally was proving steadily more popular with consumers even against the unlimited and round-the-year choice of the

big supermarkets. The benefit to the environment of eating local food is clear, Sue's own philosophy is to buy imported foods, which should be fair trade if possible, only where there is no sensibly priced local alternative.

John Bissell

John attempted the difficult task of summarising the Energy Crisis and the role of Nuclear Power in about 20 minutes. He was ideally suited, having spent his career in nuclear engineering and contributed to several energy reviews. He summarised where we are today, the energy gap and how this is likely to grow as demand rises. The role of fossil fuels was considered and how clean technology can reduce emissions. John also talked about renewable energy of which hydro electric power is by far the biggest source. They suffer from the problem of being intermittent and unpredictable but do have a crucial role. And so to nuclear power with its attendant problems of safety and disposal of radioactive waste. New generation of nuclear power plants broadly address these fears and reduce risks to an acceptable level. John's own opinion was that a balance of coal, renewables and nuclear is the best option for the UK, this would ensure we are not held to economic ransom by oil & gas suppliers.

Walter Mason

A member of High Lane U3A, Walter came at the problem from a slightly different angle. Whilst accepting that something significant may be happening with climate change he does not necessarily take for granted everything we are told or indeed that it is all our fault. The growth in world population needs to be

addressed, the planet simply does not have the resources to sustain the increase predicted from the present 6 billion. Also man's insatiable desire for more consumer products is having a damaging effect on the environment. In Walter's opinion world population growth and consumerism are just as important as global warming. However, he is an optimist, and believes these problems can be solved. Other species have lived on the planet for thousands of years, have learned to adapt to different conditions, so why shouldn't homo sapiens?

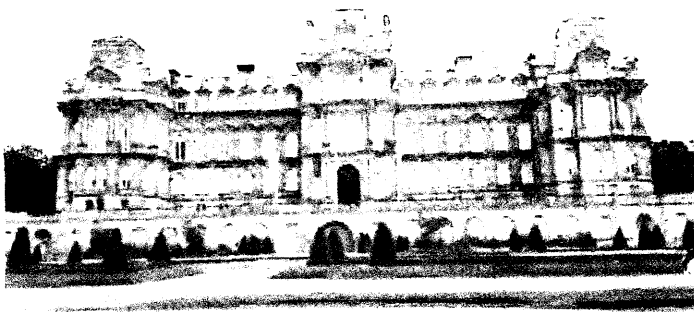
Discussion

After the talks there was a short break and the meeting then broke up into discussion groups when members had the opportunity to put questions to the experts and also give their own opinions. This session proved extremely popular and could have gone on for longer but unfortunately time constraints restricted it to approximately 1 hour.

Conclusion

Steve Reynolds said he was sure U3A members accepted something had to be done about environmental problems and were doing what they could to help in their everyday lives. Should the U3A as an organisation be doing more? Buxton has an environmental group, and Aughton & Ormskirk U3A are promoting sustainable development. Members should report back to their own U3A's and Pennine Link should also decide what, if anything, to do.

Everyone who attended thought the conference very worthwhile and the speakers were thanked for providing an interesting, balanced and thought provoking talks.

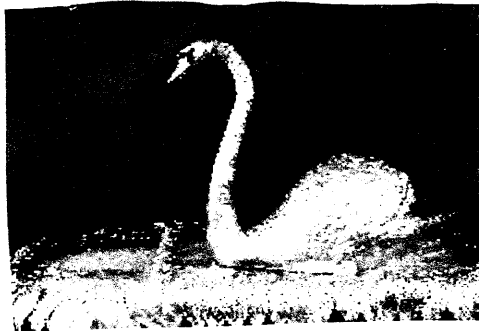


Heritage Group Visit to the North East of England.

A party of 41 boarded our luxury coach to head for the North East of England in lovely Autumn weather.

We relaxed in our comfortable seats whilst our driver Ron took the strain to our first stop at a Garden Centre near Leeds. After refreshment we then headed for the Bowes Museum.

The Bowes Museum was designed by John and Josephine Bowes in the 19th century as a gift to the British people and it opened in 1892. It has a vast collection of famous paintings, tapestries, wonderful ceramics, glass and furniture. The most memorable item for me was the life size Silver Swan, an automaton made in 1773 and bought by John Bowes for £200, it is still in working order and when set in motion it appears to preen itself and then proceeds to take a fish out of the water and eat it.



The museum is certainly well worth a visit, one could spend a whole day there, it is surrounded by parkland with a formal garden to the front. There is a cafe serving excellent meals or light refreshments.

A lovely start to the holiday with the most wonderful weather.

After leaving the museum we journeyed on to our splendid Hotel in Middlesbrough which was to be our home for the next few days.

June Gibbs



Friday, our visit to Beamish

The steel tips of Billy's clogs rang out on the wet cobbles and he pulled down his flat cap (very similar to the one Ken Bentley had purchased early in the day), to keep the driving rain off his face. He was making his way wearily up the hill back to the cottage after a long shift in the mine hewing coal. In the kitchen his wife stirred the cooking pot hanging over the fireplace and the ten children stood at the table eagerly waiting for Ma to serve the meal. Up at the manor house, preparations were also under way for the dinner and Susie, the housemaid, was putting the finishing touches to the dining table laid out with the best china. So we enter Catherine Cookson country and a real mixture of poor and rich society. This was our experience on the visit to Beamish museum, spending the morning in 1825 and the afternoon in 1913. We had rides on restored trams and replica buses and attractions included an authentic town street, colliery village, a working farm, manor house and steam locomotives. Unlike Billy we were blessed with a lovely warm sunny day so life did not look so grim. We had the chance to visit all the buildings and learnt that the Barclays Bank on the main street had originally come from Stockport and been rebuilt at Beamish. The bank had all the old style fittings plus a selection of coins and bank notes from earlier times. In the basement there was a strong room full of boxes and trucks holding important papers and valuables, perhaps

belonging to wealthy people of the town.

Down at the mining village, mothers were baking and pulling rag rugs, as the washing hung on the maiden round the grate. No one was resting or drinking tea – life was hard and there were many jobs to do. In the village school visiting children were being taught in the junior classroom by a very strict lady with a long stick and chanting out their nine times table. The drift mine gave visitors an opportunity to go into the dark, damp conditions experienced by miners and a number of our brave group took up the challenge. Today the mine still employs two Mine Deputies who have the traditional miners lamp and they have to check the mine for dangerous fumes every day before the visitors are allowed to enter.

This museum is rooted in history and brought to life by its people to capture the spirit of North East England in the early 1800s and 1900s. We all really enjoyed our day with Billy and his colleagues and would recommend it as a fine day out.

Catherine Cookson, alias perhaps belonging to Judith Ridgway

After our splendid day in Beamish we went on another superb experience The National Glass Centre in Sunderland where we saw a demonstration of Glass Blowing. The glass blowers produced a very nice and answered several questions about their personal experiences and glass blowing in general. After a little time to browse the centre shop we returned to our hotel ready for

a rest and our evening meal, after which we taxed our brains with a quiz prepared by Grace Shaw.

And so to bed after a lovely day.

Editor

Saturday a lovely day for Durham

Since coaches are not allowed in the old parts of the city, some of our party took advantage of the shuttle bus and the more energetic walked up into the lovely city centre. The name Durham originates from Dunholm or "Island on a hill" the city is surrounded on three sides by the river Wear. Durham was founded as a defensive and religious centre protecting Northern England against the marauding Scots. The Cathedral and Castle site was one of the first to be designated a World Heritage Site and is one of the finest examples of Romanesque Architecture on the planet. The Cathedral Church of St Mary and St Cuthbert dates back to 997 when the body of Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindesfarne was brought to Durham. He died on the 20th March 687 on the Farne Islands and was declared a saint after many miracles were recorded at the site of his burial, one of which was that 11 years after his burial, his coffin was opened and his body showed no signs of decay. Finally his body was laid to rest behind the High Alter in the new Norman Cathedral on 4th September 1104. The most notable of the Cathedral being, the Sanctuary Knecker, the magnificent internal ribbed vaulting, the Chapel of the Nine Altars and of course the shrine of St Cuthbert.

After lunch and a look round the market and the market hall, which was first established in 1851, it was time for our visit to the Castle.

Founded on 1072 the Castle was the Palace of the Prince Bishops, whose powers were only second to the King. They had the power to raise their own armies, administer civil and criminal law, and print their own money etc. In fact the Bishopric of Durham was a Kingdom within a Kingdom. It existed to protect the South of England and stall the invasion of any Scottish uprising.

In 1832 the then Bishop of Durham, Richard Van Mildert, founded University College in the Medieval Castle. The Castle is still part of Durham University with many highlights of Norman Architecture including the Norman Chapel dating from 1080 and the great Norman era, which is a doorway into the Tunstall gallery and is considered to be one of the finest examples of Romanesque carving in England. The historic grandeur of the Great Hall built in 1284 is still used as the main dining Hall and is one of the largest and most impressive of its kind in the country.

There are now 14 colleges in Durham University but none Quite as impressive as "The Castle".

After all that Medieval splendour it was time for the inevitable "cuppa" before boarding the coach. Several of us made our way to the modern Gala Theatre a purpose built £15M building in the Walkergate Precinct and enjoyed our refreshment

listening to a jazz trio.

After a tiring but thoroughly enjoyable day we made our way back to the Hotel with an even better knowledge of our Island, especially that special corner of the NorthThe U3A
Grace Shew

We set off to explore Captain Cook on a misty Sunday morning

to Marton where Captain Cook was born, 'twas 27 October 1728.

The museum gave a 'hands on experience' of the era - that was great!

James Cook was a bright boy, although he lived on oatcakes made of bread and gruel he learnt basic reading and writing before going to 'proper' school.

His ambition was to go to sea,

at 16 he served as an apprentice at Whitby.

James learnt the shipping business and technique of survey,

Practising his surveying skills in Gaspe Bay. He chartered the St Lawrence river as far as Quebec, then adventures began aboard Endeavor, Adventurer and Discovery on the ships decks.

This is a short tale of Captain Cook who loved the sea, who was killed by natives of Owyhee (Hawaii).

Now High Lane U3A Heritage Group are in the know, what an interesting place to go!

Then on to "The Maritime Experience" at West Hartlepool.

Back in time to Napoleonic days to explore a sail ship, many shops, businesses and more.

A list of 'ships slang' from A to Z gave a glimpse of the lives seamen lead.

"All my eye and Betty Martin" Nonsense without foundation in fact.

To "Ziss" To sleep, to get ones head down between watches.

The History of Hartlepool Museum showed us local industry,

ship building and engineering history.

The locally used boat of times past

called a Cobble with oars, sail and mast.

Cobbles can be rowed by fishermen three

or the sail hoisted to catch fish beneath the sea.

All too soon came the end of the day ..

only time for a meal and then Bridge or a natter for the U3A.

Ruth Smith

Homeward Bound

Monday morning brings fine weather for our homeward journey via Ripon with a wonderful Cathedral and market place

Thanks to Margaret McDermot and her team for a trip that was in my opinion the best yet with a super driver a brilliant organization. and a holiday that we will remember for some time to come.

Ken Bentley

PS

Have you booked next year yet??



Wednesday 23rd January

Marple Golf Club 12.30 for 1.00

£16.50 including prize ticket draw

Tickets on sale at the November meeting

Choose from:

Garlic Mushrooms with Chive & Mayo dip

Chicken & Bacon Caesar Salad

Duck and Port Paté, Redcurrant Jelly and Melba Toast

**Chicken Supreme Stuffed with Asparagus, laid on a
Dijon Mustard Cream Sauce**

**Fillet of Salmon Duglere, poached in White Wine, with a Tomato,
Mushroom & Herb Cream Sauce**

**Tender Braised Angus Steak laid on
Leek Mash served with Onion Gravy**

**Fresh Fruit Salad
Raspberry Pavlova
Sherry Trifle**

Mince Pies, Coffee and Mints