

FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the final issue of the newsletter in 2017. We have reports on the activities of many of our groups plus reports on the recent monthly meetings and the wine evening which was enjoyed by all; I'm told that after the event Sainsbury's had sold out of one of the wines! The Photography group very quickly sold all the calendars and we congratulate them on a very successful project.

Your Committee is organising two more events before the end of the year. The musical event in early November is well supported and I'm sure will be a great evening. There are a just few tickets remaining – your last chance to get one will be at the November monthly meeting.

Our next monthly meeting is a bit different this year; the Current Affairs group is hosting a 'Question Time' session so please come prepared to contribute your opinions on the questions under discussion. Also at that meeting we have the Chair of High Lane Neighbourhood Forum coming to give us a brief update on neighbourhood issues.

The December monthly meeting is our traditional Christmas event with eats, carols, quizzes and a Christmas raffle. Our speaker this year is Rebecca Done who will talk about her 'Life in Music' as well as entertaining us with some music. Tickets for this event are £5 and if you haven't got yours yet they will be available at the November meeting. As you know all these events take a lot of planning and organising and we hope you will support us.

Group news – I am pleased to report that several people have expressed an interest in the proposed Trivial Pursuit group and an introductory meeting is to be arranged about setting up the group. Later in the newsletter there is information about the Bridge groups and a possible group for those who would like to play bridge but need some help and tuition. As ever, if you have ideas for new groups or are willing to help run a group please talk to our Groups co-ordinator, Doreen Scotte, at the monthly meeting. It can be very rewarding and isn't too time consuming. Don't be afraid to offer to help!

Our thanks are due to Sheila Harrop, our Speaker Secretary, for the stimulating and very varied programme of talks we have had this year.

Next year's programme looks to be equally interesting and entertaining; you can find this on page 4.

Also looking ahead, our February AGM is approaching so we are interested in hearing from anyone who would like to join the Committee. The Committee meets around six times per year and takes on the tasks of organising meetings and speakers, managing groups, organising social events, liaison with Head Office and other matters. If you are interested in joining the Committee, you will find a Nomination form on the final page of this newsletter. Please complete this and give to Diane Saxon or Paul Kenneth at or before the January meeting. Officers and new Committee members will be elected at the AGM which will be held as usual at the February meeting when membership is due for renewal. The membership fee for next year will be maintained at the current fee of £6 or £8.50 to include a subscription to Third Age Matters, the Third Age Trust magazine.

Diane Saxon

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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

Offers of help to produce the newsletter are also very welcome!

The next edition of the newsletter will be the January 2018 edition. The deadline for contributions will be 29 December.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER MEETING: Antiques, Auctions and TV

The speaker, Peter Ashburner, brought along a wide range of objects which he used to tell us stories about his life as an auctioneer. He opened by asking the audience how many lots he would typically auction in an hour; we were surprised to hear this was around 100 and it used to be more, maybe 150-200, before the internet. Among many other things we looked at Barbie dolls, teddy bears, Beatrix Potter figures, Hornby train engines, pocket watches and candlesticks. The key point was that just because something is old it doesn't necessarily have a high value; the value is in rarity rather than age. He did say that Steiff animals are valued whereas there is little value in stamp collections as stamp collecting has fallen out of fashion among younger people.

OCTOBER MEETING: Feeding Garden Birds

At this meeting, George Pilkington gave an informative and interesting talk, interspersed with touches of humour that we all enjoyed. We learnt what we should be feeding the birds in our gardens and what we shouldn't. No bread; no whole peanuts; no monkey nuts on strings, no wheat.

George runs a company giving talks, educating children and designs and invents equipment for promoting wildlife. You can read about his work at www.nurturing-nature.co.uk.

MUSICAL EVENING: Friday, 10 November



At this event, we will be treated to a selection of Country and 60s music by multi British award-winning singer, musician and songwriter Nancy Ann Lee.

A hot meal will be available at the start of the evening. There are a few tickets left and these will be available at the monthly meeting.



WINE TASTING EVENING

The wine tasting evening was a great success. Some 50 members gathered at the Village Hall to partake of the range of wines selected by the presenters.



Barbara started the evening off with a French Burgundy she had chosen from Aldi. She was followed by Paul who presented a Sauvignon Blanc, Colombard, Chardonnay; Billy Bosch Reserve from South Africa for us to try. The white wines were completed by Diane's choice of a fragrant New Zealand Sauvignon Gris from Sainsburys.



We then turned to the Reds. Mark presented a French Mon Plaisir Cabernet Franc from Majestic Wine. Steve introduced a Toro Loco Bobal, available at Aldi for a very reasonable price. The final wine was Doreen's choice of a Portuguese wine called Porta6 also from Majestic.

Our thanks to all the presenters and to Barbara who procured the cheese and a copious and excellent selection of biscuits that helped us to stay relatively sober!

Diane Saxon

BRIDGE

High Lane U3A Bridge groups

We currently have three bridge groups meeting on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Numbers have dropped a little recently and there are spaces for members who already play bridge wishing to join a group. If you are interested, please contact the appropriate group leader; you can find their details on the groups information sheet (the one printed on buff coloured paper).

Existing members are reminded that they do not need to attend with a partner; there is often someone available and a partner will be found.

The Bridge groups now have a website.
<http://www.bridgewebs.com/highlaneu3a/>



Here we can upload the results of our duplicate sessions. Players can get statistics and analyses of their results.

We also have a list of members who want to learn to play; we need just a few more then we can set up some sessions for some tuition and practice. Please give your name to Diane Saxon or any of the bridge group leaders if you would like to join those sessions.

Bridge is Good for You!

Researchers are increasingly interested in the sociology of bridge and its impact in avoiding brain deterioration. A recent article in the Times reported a study that found that playing bridge was effective in staving off such conditions whereas doing crosswords or sudoku wasn't!

I have come across another recent study related to bridge as an activity for increasing wellbeing and keeping the mind active, conducted by researchers at the University of Stirling (2017).

This study sought to address the research questions

1. What are the characteristics of bridge players and their playing habits?
2. Is there an association between playing bridge and measures of individual wellbeing?

They found that bridge players report high levels of subjective wellbeing, revealing they are optimistic about their future and the opportunities available to them but make a cautionary statement – is it playing bridge that has the positive effect or are healthier, happier individuals more likely to play bridge?

You can read a summary of their paper at <http://www.ebedcio.org.uk/files/docs/research/in-dividual-wellbeing-and-bridge-an-empirical-analysis-blog.pdf> where there is also a link to the full paper. Interesting reading!

Diane Saxon

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – LEG ULCER STUDY

The Wounds Research Group at the University of Manchester would like to hear from you if you have, or have previously had, a leg ulcer or if you care for someone affected by this condition. The group is setting up a Patient and Public Involvement forum to help guide our research on treating and preventing leg ulcers.

We want our research to focus on issues that are important to you and be conducted in way that is clear and acceptable. The aim of the forum is to allow us to meet you and talk about your experiences, thoughts and views to help guide our research. Being involved is very flexible and we will not ask you to commit in any way that does not suit you. For example, you may wish to be involved on a short-term or one-off basis, or you may want to be involved for a longer period of time. Please note that taking part does not necessarily mean that you will be required to attend regular meetings.

You will be reimbursed a small amount for your time and any travel expenses you may have. If you would like more information about being involved, please contact Ross Atkinson: 0161 306 7661 or email: ross.atkinson@manchester.ac.uk.

FORTHCOMING TRAVEL EVENTS

Contact: Margaret McDermott or Ruth Smith

15 Dec	EAST LANCS RAILWAY. Christmas Lunch.
Early 2018	DORSET.
12- 14 May 2018	Weekend away in the Shrewsbury Area. Approximately £200. pp £42 ss including Welshpool to Llanfair Railway journey and Powis Castle. 45 min. river cruise and half a day in Shrewsbury.

OUR U3A ACTIVITIES

8 Nov	Firstly a short briefing from the High Lane Neighbourhood Forum Followed by High Lane U3A Question Time – led by the Current Affairs group. Come and comment on issues of the day.
10 Nov	Music evening. Cost £10. A few tickets remain.
13 Dec	Christmas party My Life in Music: Rebecca Done. Eats, quiz and raffle. Members only. Tickets (£5) available at the November meeting.

HIGH LANE U3A CAROL SERVICE

This year's U3A Carol Service will take place at St. Thomas' Church High Lane on December 14th 2017 at 2pm. Tea/coffee, cakes and warm mince pies will be served in the church hall after the service.

Come and enjoy the festive season with us, bring your friends and family with you. Everyone welcome.

More information if required from June Gibbs

OTHER U3A EVENTS

14 Nov	National Gallery Study day. London.
11 Dec	Music Makers. Quaker Meeting House, Liverpool. Details at https://u3asites.org.uk/files/n/north-west/docs/musicmakersflyer.pdf

ST ANN'S HOSPICE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

'Christmas is Coming' concert. St Ann's Hospice Festival Choir will be performing at the Bridgewater Hall on Friday 8 December 2017 at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from the Bridgewater Hall Booking Office, price £22, this includes the booking fee.

A coach will again be going from 'Hazel Grove Park and Ride' (£7 per person). Contact Carol Straffon for further details.

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS FOR 2018

10 January	D.I.Y Surgery: Peter Sykes
14 February	AGM
14 March	Growing Old Disgracefully: Edwina Currie
11 April	Pilgrimage to Compostela de Santiago: Noel Moroney
9 May	Two Queens and a Countess: David Templeman
13 June	How Manchester Cotton Wired up to the World: Nigel Linge
11 July	The World of an Illustrator: William Geldart
8 August	The Mercy Ships: Frances King
11 September	The Jewish Way of Life: Barbara Fraser
10 October	Disney and the Music: Brian Green
14 November	Amazing Women Pilots: Victor Crawford
12th December	Christmas Party

U3A DIARIES FOR 2018

U3A diaries have been ordered and can be collected at the November meeting.

GROUP REPORTS

ART



What a great time we have during our Thursday afternoon meeting 1.30 to 4.0pm.

Even if you haven't painted or drawn for years, or not done it since school days, or not at all, you're very welcome to come and join us. We have all the kit - just roll up. If you're on your own it is a way of meeting others and having a chat. If you're a bit fed up, be brave and come and join us.

Please call me for more information.

Brian Chadwick

BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 1 AND 2

September meeting: -

Our September meeting was a mixed bag in three parts:

Symphony in "c" - featuring: the royal ballet, music by Bizet and choreography by George Balanchine. Bizet composed his symphony in c major when he was a 17-year-old pupil of Charles Gounod at the Paris conservatory. The manuscript was lost for decades, and was published only after it was discovered in the conservatory's library in 1933.

Symphony in "c" is a short ballet in four movements featuring a different principal ballerina and supporting cast in each movement. The four movements are brought to a rousing finale, with the entire cast of 48 dancers from each movement gathering together on the stage.

Symphony in "d" - featuring: the Netherlands dance theatre, music by Haydn and choreography by Jiri Kylian. In symphony in "d" Jiri Kylian demonstrates his remarkable ability to create a highly inventive and graceful ballet which is, at the same time, extremely funny. Set to Haydn's symphony no.101 (the clock) and symphony no. 73 (the chase), it is an affectionate send-up of classical ballet poses and is performed with great wit and style by the Nederland's Dans theatre.

Baryshnikov biography 2004

The documentary featuring Mikhail Baryshnikov covers the period of his defection to the USA.

October meeting:

Our October meeting was again a mixed bag in three parts:

Ballet favourites: featuring excerpts from a number of well known ballets performed by the royal ballet & the Kirov ballet.

Excerpts:

"la fille mal gardee" - clog dance & maypole dance

"the nutcracker" - variations & grand pas deux

"giselle" - the mad scene, myrtha & the wilis

"sleeping beauty" - the garland waltz & the rose adagio.

Beauty & the beast - documentary showing the making of this ballet, featuring the northern ballet.
Baryshnikov dances Sinatra & more – featuring: the American ballet theatre, choreography by Twyla Tharp.

Dances: the little ballet, Sinatra suite and push comes to shove.

Sheila Hall

BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 3 AND 4

27th September / 5th October:

We commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Russian revolution with a performance of Kenneth Macmillan's Anastasia. Performed by the Royal Ballet, it was recorded in 2016, and featured a very strong performance from Natalia Osipova in the title role. The ballet is about Anna Andersen, who believed that she was the Grand Duchess Anastasia and as a young girl had survived the Bolshevik massacre of the Russian Imperial family in 1918. It depicts the life of the Imperial family and the tortured time that Anna Andersen spent in an asylum.

The ballet was first performed in 1971, when it was thought that her story might be true. It was not until 1994 that DNA tests showed that she was not related to the Romanovs.

1st November / 2nd November:

I have had to reschedule the first of these performances. Future showings will be back to normal. On the agenda is the Northern Ballet's production of A Simple Man. This based on the life of LS Lowry. It depicts scenes from his paintings, bringing them to life and weaving them into his story. The role of Lowry's mother is danced by Moira Shearer, in her last recorded role.

Meg Humphries

BALLROOM DANCING

We continue with our relaxed mix of ballroom and Latin, with a few sequence dances. In the last dance, we easily added a simple line dance "Achy Breaky Heart" to our repertoire.

We are open to couples who would like to try us out. Couples from neighbouring U3As are also welcome.

Walter Mason

CARD MAKING

The Card Making group continues to meet on the first Thursday of every month at St Thomas's Church Hall. We'd like to welcome two new members of the group - Elaine and Linda - welcome to you both and we hope you enjoy the fun, friendship, glue and glitter, that are key features of our monthly meetings.

We've been concentrating on Christmas cards for the last couple of meetings. Here are a few photos of cards we've made recently.

Some have proved quite challenging - especially the black and white shaker card which is supposed to look like a snowstorm, but we did find it quite difficult to keep the "snow"



away from the various glues and sticky pads we used, and some of us ended up looking like we'd been in a glittery snow storm ourselves!

We have room for a couple more round the craft table if anyone feels like having a go. No experience or special tools necessary, just a sense of humour and some baby wipes. If you are interested, contact us on (insert our email address please) to arrange a free taster session - because of the amount of preparation involved, it helps if we know how many people to expect at each meeting.



Hope to see you at a meeting sometime soon.

Christine and Dot

CHURCHES AND PUBS

Our September Churches and Pubs took us to St. Peter's Church in the hamlet or Leighton-cum-Minshull Vernon in the locality of Crewe. 38 members attended and were greeted with a warm welcome by the Rev Philip Gogins and his 'Aide' Elizabeth.

After refreshments the Rev. Philip introduced Elizabeth who gave us a comprehensive history of the church and surrounding area. The church was dedicated to St. Peter in February 1840 but fell into decline and was demolished. It was rebuilt in December 1849 but did not become fully functional until June 1860. The church is an elegant structure in Anglo-Gothic style. Upon leaving we were 'treated' to a musical finale by the Rev. Philip on the church organ.



After our interesting talk and visit, a look around the very well-kept Church Yard and its splendour, we concluded our visit with an excellent lunch at the White Lion pub in Warmingham.

John Berry



Our October outing took us to the town of Bolsover and the Parish Church dedicated to St Mary (mother of Jesus) and St Laurence (a Roman saint who, according to tradition, was martyred by being roasted on a gridiron!!

We were warmly welcomed to the church with tea, coffee and a marvellous array of cakes. Rachel (first female vicar at the church) gave us a brief introductory talk.

The church is a Grade 2 listed building and it is believed that a church has inhabited the site since Saxon times. It is almost a Phoenix that has risen from the ashes in that it has suffered two fires in its history, once in 1897 and

again in 1960. Despite this, many important features can still be seen today, incorporated in the new building. These include 12th century artefacts, the 13th century tower, 17th century crypt and Cavendish Chapel.

The restoration after the second fire resulted in a reorganisation which allowed new windows to be added which flood the church with light and the vestry became the baptistry; the altar was moved to be nearer the congregation. This second fire was a result of an electrical fault with the organ and in 1962 the Willis organ was

installed. We were treated to a short recital from Andrew (church warden) which allowed us to appreciate the organ's magnificent sound.

More recently the church has installed a Remembrance Window to commemorate the men from Bolsover who died in the First World War and a National Union of Mineworkers Banner along with two mining lamps gives recognition to the mining tradition of the area.

The Cavendish family is closely linked to the church and in 1618 William Cavendish commissioned a chapel in honour of his parents. Fortunately, this part of the church was saved from any fire damage and even remained untouched during the Commonwealth era.

After a walk around the church to admire its various features we retired to the Elm Tree pub in Elmtun and enjoyed a wonderful lunch.

Thank you to Paul and Barbara for organising this outing.

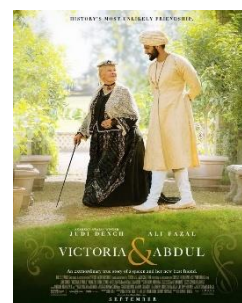
Lynn Arnold

CINEMA

The film "Victoria and Abdul" tells (pretty loosely) of the friendship between the ageing Queen and her handsome Indian servant. It is beautifully filmed and acted, funny and touching with the wonderful Judi Dench in the lead.

With 30 members in the party it was the most popular film to date. Enjoyable and memorable.

Sheila Harrop



CRAFT AND NEEDLEWORK

In November, we usually have a sale and raffle of items made by members of the group. This year, however, some of us are taking part in the Question Time Session at the November monthly meeting so we are postponing our sale and raffle to sometime in the new year.

We recently sent off more knitted items to the charity, Knit for Peace, and these have been sent to the Middle East to Syrian refugee camps.



Marlene Brookes

CROWN GREEN BOWLING

Our annual bowls internal pairs competition took place in September. 24 took part on a fine and sunny day. This year's winners were Roy Evans and Stewart Bradley. We then enjoyed a pleasant meal at the Bullock Smithy to round off a lovely day.

André Lister



CURRENT AFFAIRS

The first subject we discussed was to comment on a statement made by Jacob Rees Mogg that he thinks the increasing number of food banks is uplifting as it shows what a compassionate country we are. Our attitude was that, although this may be so, for a millionaire to remark on this one wonders how much he appreciates the straits people reach to be driven to use food banks. We all felt that in a rich country such as ours, there should not be this need. One point was made that perhaps some people have their priorities wrong and possibly spend too much on cigarettes and mobile phones etc. and then have nothing left for essentials such as food.

Brexit then reared its ugly head as it continues to do. The question asked was "How do we think negotiations are going?" On the whole most of our small group felt that Theresa May was doing her best to get a good deal and that she should be left to get on with it. She cannot show her hand in advance. Our rather selfish conclusion was that, whatever the outcome, we would probably not be here to see it. The possibility of exclusion from Europol was discussed but it was felt that surely security information will still be exchanged to the benefit of the UK and the rest of Europe.

There was now a question asking whether the recent hurricanes, earthquakes and very high temperatures were the result of global warming.

Obviously earthquakes are not. Global warming may possibly increase the incidence of hurricanes but the abnormal heat could possibly be due to this.

Apparently there is a rise in Tokophobia. This is a new word to us and I would think to most people.

It is an abnormal fear of pregnancy and childbirth.

Is this due to scenes of childbirth being portrayed on TV as unrealistically horrific? We had no answer to this but felt it could be an instance of how the media affects us.

Our final subject was the fact that there have been complaints about the rise in water rate costs. On consideration it seems that most of us seem to pay about £5 per week for our constant supply of clean water. We all thought it was a small price to pay compared to some parts of the world where this would only be a dream.

For all the grumbles, we are very fortunate. Fortunate too, after our discussions, to be served lovely refreshments.

Pat Gorie

DINING

Where on a wet and windy October lunchtime can one have a gin and tonic, enjoy a sirloin steak and chips with all the trimmings followed by a millionaires sundae, then sit back and relax with a coffee, all in the midst of happy friendly company and for the princely sum of £12 inclusive of gratuities?

Why, with High Lane U3A Dining Group of course. That's where we were on October 24th at The Kingfisher in Poynton and what a jolly time we had.

December will be our Christmas lunch and this year we are going to the Midway. If you want to join us come and add your name at the November meeting

Jeanette Bell
Dorothy Neillands

GARDENING

A visit to Carol's garden was combined with a talk by Walter "Gardening – Heaven or Hell?" which provoked a lively discussion, particularly about how we each got interested in gardening, and about the things which don't always go to plan! Meanwhile we also toured Carol's garden, which looked very attractive, with lush vegetation and plenty of late flowers.



A repeat visit to Walkden Gardens was very much enjoyed, with the profusion of butterflies a notable feature. The contrasts between the different "rooms", the skilful layout, and the variety of unusual plants and shrubs, mean this garden looks well during all seasons of the year – and it is free!

The last meeting of the year had to be altered to Walter's house. Cuttings of tall Michaelmas daisies were in demand, and after looking at the colourful late borders of Rudbeckia, Asters, lemon and gold Helianthus, and Sedum, we settled down to agreeing a programme for 2018, and having thoughts about a winter lunch get-together after the Christmas break.



Walter Mason

GERMAN

The German group continues to cover varied topics including the German Election, murder at the fairground and the danger of excessive slimming breaking up a marriage.

In November, ten of us will be visiting the Stockport Plaza to see the German comedian, Henning Wehn and we are planning a Christmas meal at the Wycliffe Hotel on December 8th.

Marlene Brookes

FAMILY HISTORY

After a summer break our meetings resumed in September. We continue to meet at Sue Harlin's house from 2 – 4pm, usually on the third Monday of the month but this can vary with holidays etc. so please contact us first.

In September a number of us attended the annual Family History Conference in Buxton, organised by the Peak District Family History Network. It was an informative day with talks including 'Researching pre 1700', 'Dialects' and information from 'The Heir Hunters'.

Web sites continue to expand and we will be looking at new information available on line but one of our main tasks in the next few months will be to gather more information about ancestors who were involved in WW1. You do not have to be a member of the group to add to this display but we do need a certain amount of information from you; ideally name, date of birth, where they lived and if possible a regiment or service number. The more information you can give us the better our chance of adding to the basic facts. Sadly, it is often easier to find out about someone killed in service than survivors but we will do our best. Photos and artefacts would also be appreciated.

We do discuss other topics and, apart from the basic dates, we are looking at electoral rolls, surname distribution, poor law and occupations. If you would like more information about the group or the WW1 display please contact us.

Pat Christopher and Sue Harlin

HISTORY

The topic for the September meeting was Jean Piaget presented by Irene Taylor.

Jean Piaget (1896 – 1980) was a Swiss clinical psychologist known for his pioneering work in child development. Piaget's theory of cognitive development and epistemological view are together called "genetic epistemology" which he developed in four phases. Piaget placed great importance on the education of children and as the Director of the International Bureau of Education, he declared in 1934 that, "only education is capable of saving our societies from possible collapse, whether violent, or gradual".

It is said that Piaget's work was influenced by Alfred Binet (1857 – 1911), a French psychologist, who invented the first practical IQ test in 1904.

According to Piaget, children are born with a very basic mental structure (genetically inherited and evolved) on which all subsequent learning and knowledge is based.

The influence of Piaget's ideas in development psychology has been enormous. He changed how people viewed the child's world and their methods of studying children. He was an inspiration to many who came after and took up his ideas and they have been of practical use in understanding and communicating with children particularly in the field of education.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 1st November 7.30 at Sheila Harrop's, when each member of the group will select a year of their choosing and will give a short summary of the major events of that year.

Pam Curley

OPERA APPRECIATION

12th / 26th September.

We watched a performance of Carmen from the New York Metropolitan Opera. Recorded in 2010, a strong cast featured a stunning performance from Elina Garanca as Carmen.

10th / 24th October.

We continued our short season of French opera with the Royal Opera's 2016 performance of The Tales of Hoffmann. Offenbach's music proved to be a very popular choice.

For the next meeting, I intend to return to the Italian repertory, with a performance of Donizetti's Anna Bolena.

Meg Humphries

PHOTOGRAPHY

Our Autumn competition featured "Harvest"; Diane winning with a picture of pumpkins taken in the Beijing Botanical gardens. Equal second were Derek's mixed berries and Walter's apples and oranges.



We are very pleased to report the success of the 2018 calendar project, with all printed calendars sold, much praise for the selection of pictures, and a modest profit made for High Lane U3A.

We also drafted our programme for 2018 and discussed how we might assist people interested in photography, but with limited computer and camera experience. Recent developments in smart phones and digital cameras have made camera knowledge much less important than in the past, and meant composing and editing pictures are now much more important. We believed that our monthly competition did help to improve composition and editing skills.

Walter Mason

QUIZ GROUP

We continue to find a variety of types of questions with which to torture our brains. At our September meeting Monica tasked us with identifying familiar products. Here are some for you to try.



For the October meeting, along with a mix of question categories, Mavis gave us a list of acronyms covering a variety of areas including finance and health. We all have a SIM in our mobile phones – but do you know what the letters SIM stand for?

Diane Saxon

TRAVEL

JULY CRUISE – ROUND THE BRITISH ISLES

(omitted from September newsletter – Ed)

Many people were very sceptical and said the weather would be awful and the sea rough. In fact it was just the opposite. Every port we visited was bathed in glorious warm sunshine (except for Kirkwall in the Orkneys where it really did rain) and the sea was mostly calm with just a slight roll now and again.

We travelled to Southampton and boarded P&O's smallest ship Adonia. Many passengers described this ship as a floating country house hotel. It is beautifully furnished, has an excellent library and pleasant restaurant with a superb choice of food.

We called at interesting ports ranging from large cities to much smaller places. In Belfast we went on a bus tour which took us to see Belfast Castle, the Titanic Building, the Harland and Wolff cranes (nicknamed Samson and Goliath) in Belfast docks where the Titanic was built, the murals on the Falls Road and the Shankill Road and the Peace Wall. Belfast City Hall has wonderful marble floors and magnificent stained glass windows.

We had a similar tour in Glasgow taking us to George Square, Glasgow University, the titanium clad crescent shaped Science Centre, Sauchiehall Street and Glasgow Green the oldest public park in Britain and home to the World Pipe Band Championships.

In Dublin we opted for a most interesting guided tour of the Castle. It began life as a Viking fort and then became a Norman stronghold. It is now used for State receptions and the inauguration of the Presidents of

Ireland. We remembered St. Patrick's Hall with its magnificent blue carpet, painted ceiling and banners of the Order of St. Patrick from a previous visit.

Other ports of call on our two week cruise were Killybegs, a small fishing port on the west coast of Ireland, Kirkwall, Scrabster, the Isle of Skye, Liverpool and Guernsey.

The entertainment on Adonia was first class. A very talented group of four were the resident entertainers. One afternoon they performed a full-length Alan Ayckbourn play, *Relatively Speaking*, with chocolates served in the interval. We were also treated to classical music concerts and a wonderful singer, Roy Locke, who sang excerpts from *Phantom of the Opera*, *West Side Story*, *Les Miserables* as well as *Nessum Dorma*, *O Sole Mio* etc. There were play readings in which to take part and up to date films to watch.

Unfortunately there will be no more P&O cruises on this wonderful ship as they have sold it!

Margaret McDermott

STAMFORD - September 2017

Our first call was Calke Abbey, where most of the house has remained as the National Trust acquired the property. However, much had been done to the gardens which were colourful in late September. An enjoyable visit.

23 September 2017 After a hearty breakfast we set off to the Stamford Georgian Festival. A Georgian encampment was camped on the Meadows, everyone doing Georgian crafts, selling wares, cooking over open fires with recruited soldiers being put into marching order.

Meeting the highwayman, the coldstream1815 foot guards, watching regency dancing and the galloping acrobatic show, was all very enjoyable. Many townsfolk were dressed in Georgian style outfits.

Comments made by U3A members who were on the 'overnight' stay : -

- Great around trip – timing was just right for all events.
- Enjoyed the trip very much, never visited this part of our country before.
- Really enjoyed the weekend. Packed a lot into two days. Looking forward to some more interesting places to visit.
- A fun-packed two days – well organised – Calke Abbey and gardens were lovely and Stamford a beautiful town made even more enjoyable with the “Georgian” events.
- Lovely visit to both places. Just the right amount of things to do. Enjoyed it all.

Ruth Smith



IRELAND – September 2017

This report is compiled from accounts sent by members of the group

- › On arrival at Dublin Airport we were greeted with "Oh Britannia what have you done! Welcome to Europe! The weather was "ish" Some showers but mostly warm and sunny.
- › Our first stop was in Athlone. The 13th century castle was held by the Jacobites after the Battle of the Boyne in 1690 but was eventually taken by the forces of William and Mary, still commemorated by Orangemen walking through the streets of Northern Ireland in July. We continued to the Westport Woods Hotel located in very attractive grounds between the town and harbour. The accommodation, food and service were first class.
- › The following day we went to the Museum of Country Life where exhibitions show how the people of rural Ireland lived in the hundred years between the Great Famine and the end of the 1950s. However, the highlight of the day was the impressive drive round Achill Island which is linked by a bridge to the mainland. Thanks to Wayne's driving we saw the magnificent coastal scenery on the Atlantic Drive. We also travelled along part of the Wild Atlantic Way, one of the world's longest coastal routes, stretching over a thousand miles along the west coast of Ireland from Malin Head in the north to Kinsale in the south.
- › A long journey next day to Ceide Fields the most extensive Stone Age and oldest known field system in the world. This is a unique Neolithic landscape where the remains of walls, houses and megalithic tombs are preserved beneath a blanket of peat. A notice in the visitor centre: the water in the bathrooms is discoloured bog water and not suitable for drinking!!
- › The day discovering the Kylemore estate was magical. The Abbey was stunning, reflected in a beautiful lake. It was built by Mitchell Henry, the son of a wealthy Manchester cotton merchant, as a gift for his wife Margaret. It is now home to a community of Benedictine nuns who came here in 1920 after their abbey in Ypres was destroyed in the first World War. The walled garden is a sight to behold, a six acre garden created in the brightest and warmest spot on the estate. A vision of loveliness! We were blessed with warm sunshine all day.
- › In the afternoon, as an extra to our itinerary, we boarded a catamaran for a delightful cruise on Ireland's only fjord, Killary Harbour in beautiful Connemara.
- › Our final day included a visit to Arigna Mine. An authoritative old miner guided us round the workings and showed us the seams of coal. The best coal was only a thin layer so the miners had to lie on their sides in horribly cramped and claustrophobic conditions. It was dark, damp and cold and they were there for hours, day after day, year after year. It was strange to see this solitary industrial site, albeit no longer in use, amongst Ireland's beautiful landscape.
- › Each of us took away our individual memory of our tour of Ireland. For one member for whom this was her first visit, some of the highlights were: - the friendliness of the Irish people we met, the lovely scenery we travelled through, the cruise along the Killary Fjord, the skilled handling of the coach by our driver, Wayne, the visits to places of historical and archaeological interest and the camaraderie which deepened during the five days.

So many people said that they would like to go to Ireland again that we are planning another visit next year.

Margaret McDermott

WALKING**Wednesday 27 September 2017**

Twenty-three members joined the U3A September walk from near the Sportsman pub in Hayfield.



After walking along Kinder Road and uphill, the group passed through Farlands (a house and a farm) and again uphill onto the moors on a field path; looking back at the view of Kinder Reservoir. With wind in our faces we had views of Southhead, carefully walking the peaty terrain.

A stony pack horse track took us to our lunch stop near to Coldwell Clough Farm, a surprise awaited us as a farmer was bringing a flock of sheep up the lane

towards us, with no dog to help! Following the tarmac road, the group arrived back on Kinder Road where our cars were parked.

Ruth Smith

Tuesday 10 October 2017

It was a very wet and misty morning when 15 brave walkers met to begin the 5.5 mile walk from Lyme Park up to Bowstones, down to Cock Knoll, and across to East Lodge. From here with the weather starting to improve but the underfoot conditions remaining very slippery and muddy, the walk continued to Cockhead and North Lodge via Bollinghurst reservoir. At last with the sun peeping through we climbed up to The Cage and enjoyed splendid views of Manchester and the surrounding countryside.

Sam and Irene Chappell

Wednesday 25th October

Sale Walter Park is a real gem, rushed past daily by thousands on the M60, its attractive floodplain has a 50-acre lake, wide rushing river, quiet stream backwaters, a maze of pleasant tree-lined tracks, and dense wooded areas easy to get lost in! Gravel extraction for motorway embankments and dike construction for flood control have been sympathetically engineered in the extensive grounds of former Sale Old Hall, yet the area seems almost entirely natural.



Our 17 walkers led by Walter Mason enjoyed exploring new ground on a pleasantly warm day even discovering a route to take in the motorway footbridge to complete the walk. Half our group then had satisfying meals at the Boathouse Restaurant to round off a good mornings walking.

Walter Mason



**HIGH LANE U3A
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS FOR 2018**

Officers and Committee for 2018 to be elected at the AGM
on 14 February 2018

The post of Secretary is the only Officer post to be filled this year. All Committee members need to be re-elected. New Committee members are very welcome. If you wish to nominate any member for the post of Secretary or for the Committee, please complete the form and return it to either Diane Saxon or Paul Kenneth by the date of the monthly meeting on 10 January 2018. Please ensure you have the permission and signature of the person you are nominating.

Please cut:

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	NOMINEE	SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	NOMINATED BY	SECONDED BY
Secretary				
Committee Member				