

FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the final issue of the newsletter in 2018. We have reports on the activities of many of our groups plus reports on the recent monthly meetings and the music evening which was a great success and enjoyed by all.

The December monthly meeting is our traditional Christmas event; this year we have music from the singing group and the handbell ringers plus talks, seasonal eats and a Christmas raffle.

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 the right-hand side of the page.

Also looking ahead, our February AGM is approaching. As well as the usual business of the AGM and the election of Officers and Committee for 2019, we need to vote on a change to the Constitution. The AGM notice is on the last page of this newsletter along with a Nomination form for Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Committee members for next year. 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, please seek nominations from members, sign the form and give this to me at or before the January meeting.

Membership is also due for renewal in February 2019. The membership fee for next year has not yet been finally fixed but we expect to be able to maintain it at the current fee of £6 or £8.50 to include a subscription to Third Age Matters, the Third Age Trust magazine.

Diane Saxon

U3A DIARIES FOR 2019

U3A diaries have been ordered and can be obtained from Pam Curley at the November meeting.

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS FOR 2019

9 January	Winter watch: David Taylor
13 February	AGM
13 March	What on earth does an airport chaplain do?: Rev George Lane
10 April	Advances in cardiac surgery: Professor Bernard Loveday
8 May	Life as a working actor: Jonathan Keeble
12 June	Writing crime fiction: Barbara Speake
10 July	Lasting power of attorney made simple: Jackie Lucas
14 August	'Tornado' steam locomotive for the 21 st century: Graham Nicholas
11 September	Amazing history walks: Josephine Gosling
9 October	Life and times of a busker: Eric Newton
13 November	Working with orangutans in the rainforest of Borneo: Sarah Lionheart
11th December	Christmas Party Entertainer: Tony Johnston

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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 the editor at newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk

The next edition of the newsletter will be the January 2019 edition. The deadline for contributions will be 30 December.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Barbara Fraser gave a very interesting and informative talk about the Jewish way of life. We learnt that all Jewish people have two names although the religious name is only used in services. Pork and shellfish, are forbidden; meat and dairy may not be combined. On marriage, the ceremony must take place under a canopy. The ring is placed on the first finger of the right hand. On death, burial must take place within 24 hours; no flowers; round buns with hard boiled eggs are eaten and people bring food for the mourners.

OCTOBER MEETING

Brian Green entertained us with an hour of music from the Disney film classics. His selection centred on the earlier films which were mostly remembered by his audience and his presentation offered a nostalgic view of many of our childhood memories. His knowledge of the genre was evident and his enthusiasm for his subject provided us with "an afternoon at the pictures" which was both relaxing and entertaining.

Sheila Kenny

MUSICAL EVENING: Friday 26 October

Over 70 members gathered on Friday evening to enjoy an evening of music from local duo Copyrite. The evening started with a meal of salmon or lasagne followed by apple pie and cream. We were then treated to a wide range of music ranging from Elvis to Duffy; it should be noted that members were not slow to get up and dance!

BUXTON FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

September 2018

The annual U3A Family History Conference at Buxton was well organised and provided information and entertainment for delegates from the surrounding U3A groups. The room in the Palace Hotel was full of fellow historians keen to further their researches and the four guest speakers were interesting and knowledgeable.

Following a welcoming beverage we were greeted by Ian who introduced the first speaker, Neil Fraser, whose topic was the use of the Scottish archives – a seemingly easy to use and comprehensive source of photographs as well as information. Coffee and tea flowed freely and we were then treated to a slide show and talk relating to DNA testing, into which several members had either already delved or were considering for the future.

After a pleasant lunch in the conservatory we returned to a topical subject in the search for missing men of the Great War. This was interesting as many groups this year are researching relatives from the time in order to commemorate the ending of the war to end all wars 100 years ago.

More refreshments and the conference concluded with something quite different – a suggestion by Jim Williams that we should write simple autobiographies – ensuring that future family historians would get a glimpse into lives and characters which would take them beyond mere facts. An interesting idea although lack of time and a certain reluctance to assume an interest by future generations may hamper the initial enthusiasm.

There were also, of course, stands with researchers and contributors offering their wares and explaining their expertise. Chatting to the stall holders and those waiting to investigate the things on offer was a fascinating part of the day. For example, Finding maps of streets no longer in existence was quite a thrill.

Finally, with a brain buzzing with information and ideas for possible next steps we left the venue looking forward to next year.

Elizabeth Jackson

VIRGIN MEDIA SCAM

A member reports that this one seems to have reappeared. The email purporting to be from Virgin Media says that your last payment failed to process and asks for updated payment details. The genuine looking email is a scam and should be forwarded to phishing@virginmedia.com.

POPPYFEST AT HAZEL GROVE METHODIST CHURCH.

On the last weekend of October was an impressive and very moving display in remembrance of the First World War centenary. There were ceiling high waterfalls containing thousands of hand-knitted red and white poppies, detailed memorabilia of local fatalities street by street including Wilfred Wood VC, attractive floral arrangements, and a programme of appropriate live music.



Clearly, it must have been months, if not years in the planning, with so many thoughtful little touches. It made this, the first of several local celebrations, a poignant tribute to fallen soldiers from Hazel Grove.

Walter Mason

POPPIES AT IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM NORTH



IWM North is the final location for the sculpture on the UK wide Poppies Tour which has been seen by over 4 million people. Purpose-built to tell the powerful stories of over a century of conflict, IWM North makes full use of its extraordinary exhibition space to deliver an award-winning immersive experience that explores how war shapes lives.

Poppies: Weeping Window will be displayed at IWM London from 5 October before both sculptures become part of the Imperial War Museums' collection.

STOCKPORT BUILDING WINS AWARD



Stockport's Red Rock development has been named the UK's worst new building from the past year and has won the Carbuncle Cup 2018,

an annual competition organised by architecture website Building Design (BD) to find the worst buildings in the UK. Clad in grey, blue and red patchwork panels, the building contains a multi-screen cinema, shops, restaurants, a gym and a multi-storey car park. The £45 million development, located beside the M60 motorway to the south of Manchester, was described by judges as a "missed opportunity" and one 'felt sorry for the people of Stockport'.

OVERVIEW OF THE UK POPULATION: NOV 2018

- In mid-2017, the population of the UK was an estimated 66 million – its largest ever.
- The UK population is projected to continue growing, reaching almost 73 million by 2041.
- Sustained UK growth results from births outnumbering deaths (by 148,000 in 2017) and immigration exceeding emigration (by 282,000 in 2017).
- In 2017, there were 27.2 million households in the UK and 19 million families.
- In 2017, about 86% of the UK population were UK-born and about 90% were British nationals – down from about 89% and 93%, respectively, in 2007.
- Although improvements in life expectancy have recently stalled, the UK population is generally living longer than it has before; babies born in 2015 to 2017 are expected to live 79.2 years if male or 82.9 years if female.
- The UK population is ageing – around 18.2% of the UK population were aged 65 years or over at mid-2017, compared with 15.9% in 2007; this is projected to grow to 20.7% by 2027.
- By 2041, the 1960s baby boomers will have progressed into their 70s and 80s, and by 2066 there could be an additional 8.6 million people aged 65 years and over in the UK – a population roughly the size of present-day London.

Full report at [Office of National Statistics](https://www.ons.gov.uk)

OUR U3A ACTIVITIES

14 Nov	Monthly meeting. Amazing women pilots presented by Victor Crawford
12 Dec	Christmas party
7 March	Annual Lunch. Alma Lodge hotel

FORTHCOMING TRAVEL EVENTS

Contact: Margaret McDermott or Ruth Smith

20 Nov	Stepping Hill hospital. Eyesight and cataracts. Meet Oakwood House 12 noon
14 Dec	HADDON HALL. Tour of the Hall and lunch in the restaurant. Coach from the Village Hall
23-27 May 2019	GLOUCESTER 4 nights Half board at Hallmark Hotel. £349 plus entrance fees. Single Supplement £70.
15-21 July 2019	SOMERSET 5 nights Half board at Swan Hotel Wells. £539 plus entrance fees. Single supplement £96. Possible visits to Roman Baths, Wells Cathedral, West Somerset Railway, Longleat, Cheddar Cheese Factory. DEPOSIT NOVEMBER
Aug-Sept 2019	IRELAND
3-10 Oct 2019	MEDIEVAL GERMANY River Cruise Mainz, Miltenberg, Wurzburg, Rothenburg, Bamberg, Nuremberg. Flight from Manchester to Munich.

ST ANN'S HOSPICE 'Christmas is Coming' concert.

St Ann's Hospice Festival Choir will be performing at the Bridgewater Hall on Friday December 14th at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from the Bridgewater Hall Booking Office, price £22.50 including £2.50 booking fee. A coach will again be going from Hazel Grove Park and Ride (£7 per person).

Contact Carol Traffon for further details.

CHRISTMAS IN STOCKPORT

- St George's Church Christmas Tree Festival, 28 Buxton Road, Stockport, SK2 6NU. Saturday 2nd December, 10am to 6pm, Adult £2 - children under 16 free.
- Merseyway Winter Snow Garden. Complete with glistening Christmas trees, Merseyway's Snow Garden will be located outside Specsavers from Monday 4th December to Saturday 23rd December. Open 11am to 4pm from Monday to Saturday and 11am to 3pm on Sundays.
- Christmas Makers Market, Market Place, Saturday 9th December, 10am – 6pm. Step back in time to Christmas days gone by as you wander through the old Market Place. Gather up some gifts at the Victorian Christmas Market and visit the Makers Christmas Market for chestnuts roasted on an open fire.
- Vintage Village Christmas Special, Market Place, Sunday 10th December, 10am – 4pm. Quality authentic vintage clothing and accessories, vintage jewellery, curios and collectables.

ARTS IN LOCAL CINEMAS

There is an increasing range of plays and other performances being streamed to local cinemas under the banners of the National Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Company, English Royal Ballet, Royal Opera House et al.

Upcoming showings include:

- 13 Nov ROH La Bayadere
- 14 Nov RSC Troilus and Cressida
- 20 Nov NTLive The Madness of King George
- 29 Nov The King and I (London Palladium)
- 3 Dec ROH Nutcracker

The latest NTLive offering was the new play by Alan Bennett, Alleluia, which features a cast of well-known actors closeted in the geriatric ward of a small community-based hospital which the government department was trying to shut down. The play is very enjoyable and quite light hearted but raises a number of uncomfortable issues about the treatment of older people, the pressures on beds and staff in the NHS and the impact of government decisions on individuals' lives.

GROUP REPORTS

BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 1 AND 2

September Meeting

Our September meeting was in two parts, the first part featured the ballet “Napoli”, followed by a short light-hearted ballet “Western Symphony”

“Napoli” (or “The Fisherman and his Bride”)

The ballet which is in three acts was created in 1842 and tells the story of a fisherman Gennaro and his beloved Teresina a young Italian girl. Despite her mother’s objections to her choice of suitor the ballet eventually ends happily with the marriage of the lovers.

The performance featured “The Royal Danish Ballet” with music by various composers and choreography by August Bournonville. The principle dancers were “Linda Hindberg as Tersina & Arne Villumsen as Gennaro”. “Western Symphony”. As the name suggests “Western Symphony” is a light hearted ballet based on a collection of American folk tunes. The performance featured “The New York Ballet, with Folk Tunes arranged by “Hershy Kay” and choreography by “George Balanchine”.

October Meeting

Our October meeting was again in two parts, the first part featured the ballet “Snow White” followed by a short tribute to Jerome Robbins “In the Night”.

The ballet “Snow White” is based on the well-known Grimm’s Fairy Tale “Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs”, the story of which I’m sure you all know from your childhood. The performance featured “The Bilbao Orchestra” with music by “Emilio Aragon” and choreography by “Richard Cue”. The principle dancer was “Tamara Rojo as Snow White.

The ballet “In The Night” is performed as a tribute to the choreographer Jerome Robbins. The performance featured “The Paris Opera Ballet” with music by “Frédéric Chopin” and choreography by Jerome Robbins”. The principle dancers were “Dorothee Gilbert, Alessio Carbone, Stéphane Phavorin and Emmanuel Thibault”.

Sheila and Bill Hall

BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 3 AND 4

26th September / 4th October:

We watched a documentary shown on TV in 2015, in which Darcey Bussell gave a very good account of famous male dancers from the early days of ballet to the present time.

This was followed by a Macmillan ballet: Winter Dreams, which is based on Chekhov’s novel Three Sisters.

24th October / 1st November:

The theme was famous choreographers. In an interesting programme, dancers Deborah Bull and Adam Cooper demonstrated the style of various choreographers.

This was followed by a performance of Frederick Ashton’s ballet The Dream. Recorded in 2017, the Royal Ballet gave a very accurate representation of Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream, set to Mendelssohn’s exquisite music.

Next on the agenda is more of Ashton's work, plus a look at how the Royal Ballet prepare students and artists for their annual production of The Nutcracker.

Meg Humphries

BALLROOM DANCING

Sam returned from summer caravanning to restart alternating as host with Walter and to provide welcome variety in music and a fresh approach to learning new steps and refreshing known ones.

Walter Mason

CANASTA

In 48 years of being able to go in pubs (and longer for some of our Canasta members) I have never been asked to leave. However there is a first time for everything and the Canasta group may be one of the first U3A groups who have been asked to leave because we didn't drink enough.

Despite some of us eating at the Royal Oak the owner did not like our company, needing the seats we utilised on a weekly basis to seat the other people in the pub, despite the fact we had been going there for the last 4 or 5 years and seen four different owners in the last couple of years. It has become necessary therefore to change our venue and we are now meeting on Tuesdays at 7pm at the friendly Bulls Head in the middle of the Village.

Our group can range from 4 to 12 or even 14 depending on weather and personal circumstances. We are a friendly group and welcome learners and experienced players. We only have one rule you must buy a drink; coffee or tea, soft or alcoholic - you choose.

Les Birks

CARD MAKING

Our Christmas card making is well under way, and at our September meeting we had a go at making Christmas Tree baubles. Plans for our November meeting include making a Christmas door hanging.



We are also busy planning for an exhibition of our card making skills at the November general meeting, where many of the cards we have made over the last couple of years will be displayed. We may also have a few handmade cards for sale!

If you feel like joining us, we usually have room for an extra chair or two round the table, just let Dot or Christine know to expect you to make sure there are enough card making packs. We meet on the afternoon of the first Thursday of every month at St Thomas's church hall.

Christine Fox and Dot Green

DID YOU KNOW?

The first commercial Christmas cards were commissioned by civil servant Sir Henry Cole in London in 1843. Featuring a family drinking wine, one sold for £8,469 in 2014.

CHURCHES AND PUBS

September: St Lawrence - Whitwell Derbyshire



September's visit took us to the parish church of St. Lawrence at Whitwell Derbyshire. This village is situated over the M1 on the east side of Chesterfield. We were greeted by one of the church wardens and were served with tea, coffee cake and biscuits.

St. Lawrence is typical of the style of church built within one hundred years after the Battle of Hastings. Most of the present church dates from the 12th century and is built from stone quarried locally and from quarries on the outskirts of the parish. The Norman architecture can be seen in the huge round pillars, semicircular arches, high roof and a square tower.

Alterations were made during the 14th century. The side aisles were made wider, two transepts were added and the south porch was rebuilt and the height of the tower was increased.

A lot of restoration work on the whole of the church was done in 1885/86. The area on the whole suffered with mining subsidence and a survey done in 1969 expressed worry about the condition of the tower and restoration work had to be done on it.

The parish clock or workmanship clock is a popular feature within the village and people pause as they pass the church to look up at the clock. In the north transept is the tomb of Sir Rodger Manners and Dorothy Vernon of Haddon Hall.

The stained glass windows in the north transept contain fragments of old glass, some of which has been identified as being from the medieval period. One of the windows is known as the monkey window because of the monkey like creatures built into the design. The font is very old and is believed to be older than the church. The oak pulpit from 1897 was built by local craftsman Jacob James.

After a very enjoyable morning we went to The Elm Tree inn for lunch and had an excellent meal. After lunch a few of us went to visit All Saints Chapel at Steetley. It is a very small church and the chapel was built during the anarchy of Stephen (1135-1154). It is a beautiful specimen of Norman work to be found anywhere in Europe.

Paul Kenneth

October: St Werburgh's Church Warburton



After an interesting journey had by some members of the group (Paul and Barbara) we were welcomed at Warburton Parish Rooms with refreshments. Father Michael then invited us to join him in the church for his talk.

There are two St Werburgh's in Warburton, one a timber framed construction dating back to the 13th century and the other a lovely Victorian building designed by the architect John Douglas and built in 1885 after the rector Geoffrey Egerton Warburton persuaded the powers that be to build a new church as the original had developed

many problems including dry rot. Both are dedicated to St Werburgh a nun who was the daughter of the first Christian king of Mercia. The 'new' church is built in red sandstone and has many interesting features including the beautiful wooden ceiling and the choir stalls which are decorated with angels; it has eight bells which are rung regularly. Links to the old church can be seen in the form of a Jacobean chest boasting three keys; one kept by the rector the other two by church wardens. This security measure ensured the safety of precious silver artefacts! There are also some paintings depicting scenes of the old church and the font cover dating from 1593 was transferred from there.

Father Michael's talk was interspersed with amusing anecdotes regarding incidents his career. This kept us highly entertained and resulted in the comment that he should be 'on the stage'.

We adjourned to the aptly named Jolly Thresher and had an excellent lunch. Thanks to Paul and Barbara for organising the trip.

Lynn Arnold

CROWN GREEN BOWLING



We continue to be a strong group who play all year round at Torkington Park, Hazel Grove on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am - 12 noon. We welcome new members; you can come either day or both as some of our regulars do. As we have more gentlemen players, ladies are especially welcome. If you haven't played before we can give you a little tuition if you wish prior to joining the group. However, we encourage absolute beginners, so please come along and give it a go.

A very enjoyable morning was had by twenty of us at our Autumn annual pairs competition which was won by Derek Jones and Judith Ridgway; Judith being a second time holder of our trophy. Runners up were David Smith and Peter Kress. We followed the competition with a convivial lunch at the Fiveways hotel.

André Lister



CURRENT AFFAIRS

SEPTEMBER

- Most believed there should be an end to Faith schools. However, there was division whether Christianity should be the default religion, even if all faiths were taught. Even a view that no religion taught at all.
- Serena Williams may have gone overboard in her attack, apparently, for women's rights, but divided thoughts about the rights and wrongs.
- Is there a tendency for politicians to 'bare all', as in Ruth Davidson's declarations - yes! Motives, not sure!
- Very divided about Labour's demand for 10% company shares to workers. May damage irrevocably small firms. Should remain voluntary.

- Should utilities become state owned? For defence purposes seems wise, but is it practical? Did it work before?
- Consensus that online gambling be stopped - perhaps all? Difficult not to become a nanny state?
- Do we still 'Rule the Waves' or are we just kidding ourselves? Divided opinion: some, get rid of Last Night of the Proms classic; some unwilling to let tradition die in this overzealous age of political correctness!

Julia Curtis

DINING

It was a pleasure to see some new faces at the Dining group lunch In October. All appeared to enjoy themselves and we hope to see them again.

The meal was at Ciao an Italian restaurant in Poynton where we had a delicious three course meal which was very reasonably priced. We had a wide and varied menu to choose from and the food was good however with our party of twenty-nine and various other diners in the restaurant I am afraid the service was a trifle slow but the waiters were still very polite and friendly. Despite the service I think we all enjoyed ourselves; lots of chatter and smiley faces in the room.

Our next lunch will be our Christmas celebration and we are returning to The Midway on Newbridge Lane, where we had a very enjoyable lunch last Christmas. As usual names will be taken at the November meeting and all are welcome

Dorothy Neillands
Dorothy Gerard

FAMILY HISTORY

We have been working hard on our WW1 display. It will be staged in St Thomas's Church from the 5th – 9th November along with their own remarkable exhibition. It will then be staged again at our own general meeting on 14th and I hope you will enjoy looking at the results of our investigations. In addition, Jeff Mortimer is bringing a scale model of a WW1 plane.

There are some amazing stories of bravery and commitment of people from all walks of life. I would especially like to thank all our contributors, not all of them are in the Family History Group, for their support in this project and the members who have helped with the staging.

We will now return to our more normal meetings looking at other aspects of the lives of our ancestors.

Pat Christopher

GARDENING



An optional visit in early September was to Osborne Steet, Bredbury where Geoff Hoyle's dahlia garden (opened annually under the NGS garden scheme) did not disappoint in spite of threatening weather. Highly recommended if you like dahlias!



A late September visit was to Ruth and Dave's garden, where there was plenty of interest. Healthy vegetables, self-grown cosmos and sunflower, and late flowers and berries caught the eye. The plot is compact and well sheltered, with lots of evidence of their gardening skills. Afterwards, Ruth tested our knowledge with some well-chosen gardening questions.



The final visit of the year was to Walter's garden, which had colour from many varieties of aster (Michaelmas Daisy), rudbeckias, autumn crocus, and several perennials repeat flowering after the hot summer. We welcomed Beryl back after her recent fall and discussed a winter lunch and next year's programme.



Walter Mason

GERMAN

We've been continuing with our normal fare of crime and human interest stories and in addition European updates on the Brexit process. Terminology is rather different in German: a hard Brexit is a wild Brexit and instead of cherry picking, there is raisin picking.

Our conversation has been enlivened, as usual, by accounts of foreign holidays and we learnt something new about the island of Sylt, the home island of our German member, Karin, who brought us some interesting local newspaper articles, including one on the worrying effect of mobile phones on family life.

A few members have been trying their hand with translation work which really tests grammatical accuracy. Speaking is much easier!

Marlene Brookes

HISTORY

The Battle of Arras

This presentation came about as a result of one of the group members doing a family history search. She had discovered that an uncle had been killed at the age of twenty one on April 14th 1917 at the Battle of Arras, having survived the Battle of the Somme. Her uncle had been a pony driver in a coal mine in County Durham before enlisting into the army. This battle is not one of the more well known battles of WW1, but the death rate per day had exceeded both the Battle of the Somme and Passchendaele. This battle had been planned as a diversion to help the French who were attacking on another front. Unfortunately, the French did not succeed, which allowed the Germans to send more troops to Arras. On the first two days the British army advanced five kilometres, which was a considerable achievement, but ultimately they were defeated.

Irene Taylor

The next history group will be held on Wednesday 28th November.

OPERA APPRECIATION

5th / 10th September

We saw a recording from 2015 of the New York Metropolitan Opera's production of Maria Stuarda Donizetti's opera, based on a play by Schiller, gives a German/Italian take on the story of Mary Queen of Scots. It is a very dramatic opera with wonderful music.

3rd / 8th October

French opera was on the agenda, with a performance of L'Africaine from San Francisco Opera. This was Meyerbeer's last opera. It is set in 16th Century Portugal and is about the discovery of a sea route to India by Vasco da Gama. This version was recorded in 1988 and starred Placido Domingo at the height of his powers, with other very fine singers.

At our next meeting, we will return to Italian opera, with a performance of Norma by Bellini.

Meg Humphries

PHILOSOPHY

September meeting

So spellbound was Heraclitus in not stepping in the same water twice and Pythagoras in musical shapes, that they forgot to write anything down, so we stated our investigation into the history of Philosophical Thought with PLATO. Plato defended the condemned Socrates by producing 'Dialogues' with his teacher and another person, which we had the sneaking feeling enabled Plato to test his own ideas before committing to them. The idea of 'Forms' - Beauty, Truth, Justice etc. - already being out there in the ether did not seem to square (that pesky Pythagoras again!) with the notion that people do not do wrongs willingly.

There was hilarious debate about separating children from their families at birth to be raised as Philosopher-Kings. The famous 'Cave' scenario, whereby only the reluctant rule, we felt unable to reconcile with the egocentric politicians of today.

'The Timaeus', with its talk of previous civilizations, Plato's concept of reincarnation and the modern consensus that platonism is more in tune with the particle physics era, brought on wide-ranging and lively debate.

Our next philosopher is ARISTOTLE. From the painting by Raphael, where Plato is pointing up and Aristotle concentrating on more down-to-earth matters, the majority was for Aristotle. I'm with Plato myself, so I - well, Plato actually - give you:

'THERE ARE TWO THINGS A PERSON CAN NEVER BE ANGRY AT, WHAT THEY CAN HELP AND WHAT THEY CANNOT' !!

Julia Curtis



PHOTOGRAPHY

The September Competition on Butterflies was won by Derek (Speckled Wood), with Walter 2nd and 3rd (Red Admiral, Peacock). We also made a start on our programme for next year.



Note that the final sale of 2019 calendars will be held at the November monthly meeting! Otherwise contact Walter direct.

Walter Mason

QUIZ GROUP

In our recent quizzes, group members have improved their knowledge of the NATO phonetic alphabet, looked back at 2018 and struggled with ditloids. A ditloid is a type of word puzzle, in which a phrase or quote must be deduced from the numbers and abbreviated letters in the clue.

For example

4 S in a P of C

8 P in a G

12 S on a D

The group has one more meeting this year on 15 November. There is currently space for a few new members so if you would like to join us please contact me.

Diane Saxon

READING GROUP

The newly formed Reading Group has now met twice and our numbers are growing! We started off with Thomas Hardy's "The Mayor of Casterbridge", as it is a really good story and easily available. Those who read it found it unexpectedly enjoyable with a strong and suspenseful plot and, in Michael Henchard, an all too human tragic hero, with whom we could sympathise, despite his many faults.

Our October book was Peter May's "I'll keep you safe"; possibly not one of his better books but one with an unusual plotline. Despite criticism of the implausible nature of some of the events, we found his description of the landscape and weather of the Outer Hebrides extremely vivid which, for some, more than made up for the weakness of the plot.

We next meet on Monday 5th November when we will be discussing “The Gustav Sonata” by Rose Tremain. We have agreed on a list of books up to April of next year. Our December book will be *Mortal Mischief* by Frank Tallis, a psychological mystery set in the Vienna of the early 1900s.

Anyone interested in joining the group can contact me by phone or email or see me at the monthly meeting.

Marlene Brookes

TRAVEL

IRELAND

We left Manchester Airport with Ryanair exactly on time at 8 am and landed in Dublin at 8:35. Bit of a bumpy landing!! Our coach was waiting for us and took us for a short stop in Kilkenny, once the medieval capital of Ireland. On arrival at our hotel in Youghal we were given a typically warm Irish welcome and given tea or coffee while luggage was taken to our rooms.

The restaurant where we dined each evening had a wonderful sea view. We were staying in the south east of Ireland and although Wednesday was very windy we were sheltered from the damaging gale force winds of Storm Ali on the Atlantic coast.

During our five days in Ireland we visited a variety of venues: a castle, stately home, famine ship, haunted house lighthouse and island prison. The group was asked to rate each one in terms of interest and enjoyment.

Blackrock Castle Observatory proved to be first choice of most. It is the oldest surviving structure in the city of Cork although it did burn down and had to be rebuilt. Much of the original building was preserved. The observatory is operated by staff from the Cork Institute of Technology. Our very competent young guide used computer software to project planets and stars onto a screen to show us the wonders of the night sky. He then took us into the castle courtyard to tell us stories of smugglers and pirates who navigated one of the world's deepest natural harbours.



Our next visit was to Fota House once the hunting lodge of the Earls of Barrymore and the private estate of the Smith Barry family. It has stood in the centre of Fota Island for centuries. A very enthusiastic guide took us on a tour of the house.



Another popular venue was the Dunbrody Famine Ship at New Ross County Wexford. It is a replica of a cargo ship built in 1845 by an Irish emigrant from County Derry to carry timber from Canada, cotton from the USA and guano from Peru. Because of the dreadful famine in the 1840s, many Irish people wished to emigrate, but there were not enough ships to carry them. Entrepreneurial merchants equipped the ships with bunks and cabins to carry over 300 passengers. Costumed interpreters told us about the appalling conditions on these ships particularly for steerage passengers, many of whom died at sea. Cabins cost £5-8 and steerage £3-4.

Unfortunately we had planned a visit to Spike Island in Cork Harbour on the only day that it rained. In the last 1300 years Spike Island has housed a monastery, a fortress and the largest prison in the world holding over 2300 prisoners. Irish convicts awaiting transportation were tied together by ball and chain and made to work with shovels and pickaxes to build the banks around the fort. Inmates were held in solitary confinement in a purpose-built punishment block often chained by the neck to the walls of their cells. There was even a prison holding children as young as twelve for crimes as trivial as stealing a loaf of bread. The star shaped fortress dominates the island built to defend against invasion from Napoleon. Churchill described Spike as the sentinel tower of the approaches to Western Europe.

Although Loftus Hall is described as Ireland's most haunted house most of us did not find it particularly spooky. The usual story of a young girl being visited by the Devil in the guise of a handsome young man.

On our final day when we left the hotel to travel Waterford Crystal and the return flight from Dublin to Manchester we were each presented with a cake in a box by the hotel management.

We hope to visit Ireland again next year.

Margaret McDermott

WALKING

Wednesday 26th September 2018

21 members turned up for this historical walk in the "The peak District National Park Saddleworth "led by Merlyn & Joyce. This area well known by Merlyn from childhood, scouting and Tameside Ranger walks was locally known as Chew Valley Greenfield and latterly "Dovestones "

Despite the long drive through built up areas we were met on arrival with a beautiful sunny day for the 6 mile walk. The surrounding hills, valleys, rock outcrops, reservoirs, and woodlands were taking on the autumnal tints as we started walking passed "40 ROW ". These

back to back terraced mill workers houses date from 1820 before Greenfield village existed. Below was Greenfield mill and latterly the abandoned Paper mill of Robert Fletcher & Sons 1830-- 2001.



A very gradual ascent followed with stops to view the surrounding hills and monuments, Wharmton transmitter, Pots & Pans war memorial, Alderman Hill. Alphin Pike and Ashway Gap. We next joined the "Oldham Way" for our journey to Charnel Clough. This route is a Tramway built by Morrison & Mason Ltd from Glasgow who were the engineers contracted for Chew reservoir 1907—1914. The tramway contoured the steep hillside from Micklehurst in Mossley to Charnel Clough to bring material, men and 42,318 cubic feet of puddle clay for Chew reservoir construction. Chew was the highest UK moorland reservoir at that time. We walked along the fringes of heather hillside moorland, through woodland plantations and below aircraft wreck sites at Indians Head.

Lunch stop was at Charnel Clough Bridge as it crossed Chew Brook. Merlyn had photos showing the tramway route ascending the 500 ft. hillside by steam winch to a second locomotive taking the trucks of clay to the reservoir dam

Downhill now along the Chew track for a 2 mile circular route around Dovestones reservoir quite low due to the hot dry summer. We went through a new woodland path near Ashway Gap house; a shooting lodge built ~1850 by John Platt MP from the respected Oldham textile Company. Tragically his brother James Platt MP was killed in a shooting accident on the hillside above. The gothic house now demolished for reservoir construction was subsequently used as a hospital in the 1st world war and to billet Italian POW's 2nd world war.



We crossed the dam admiring the new stone wall between Dovestones and Yeoman Heys Reservoir and then Joyce gave the history of the King of Tonga visit in 1981.

Arriving back at the carpark at 3pm Walter on behalf of the group thanked Merlyn and Joyce for the enjoyable walk with detailed history and events in this location.

Merlyn Young

Tuesday 9th Oct 2018

The walk was led by Sam and Irene Chappell on a beautiful warm sunny morning. The group of 14 walkers met on the car park in the centre of Poynton to start the 5.5 mile walk, adapted from the 1998 December edition of the 'Living EDGE' magazine and entitled 'Inclined To Walk'.



Our route followed the spine of a complex colliery railway system, now a quiet wooded path, passing what was Vernon Collieries Office buildings, Albert Pit and the Middlewood Way. We continued up the Incline to the Macclesfield Canal above Higher Poynton where we turned right along the canal towpath, past Canal Pit, Nelson Pit and Vernon Wharf as far as Bridge 16. Here we left the canal and made our way down to Poynton Brook Woods and the Middlewood Way, stopping for lunch at the north entrance to Poynton Coppice. After negotiating

a short stretch of path in The Coppice, our route took us to Coppice Road. After crossing the road into fields, we followed the field paths to the junction of Anson Road and Middlewood Road, returning to Poynton past Petra Bank cottages, the Lady Pit pump house and the Poynton Centre, formally the Vernon Schools.

Sam and Irene

U3A Snowdonia Walking Holiday 19-22 October 2018

Thirty walking group members enjoyed a three-night stay at Craflwyn Hall, Beddgelert, Snowdonia. Craflwyn Hall is owned by the National Trust and leased to HF Holidays. It is set in extensive grounds a mile from Beddgelert. Formerly a Victorian lodge, stable block and outbuildings which have been recently renovated. It proved to be an excellent base for our adventures.



Friday 19th October:

We met at NT Bodnant Gardens near Conwy and explored the 80 acre gardens and woodlands in ideal bright and sunny conditions, enjoying the Autumn colours at their best. After a picnic lunch we made the 28 mile scenic drive to Craflwyn Hall and were made welcome with afternoon tea.

Saturday 20th October:

Two walks were planned to provide choice to suit the whole group. Walk 1 Beddgelert Aberglaslyn and Llyn Dinas. Walk 1 and Walk 2 participants started together from the house in favourable weather, walking to Beddgelert and then visited Gelert's Grave and the upper section of the spectacular Aberglaslyn Pass, where a drink stop was taken by the river.

At this point the large group divided into two, Walk 1 led by David Burke and Walk 2 led by Walter Mason.

15 **Walk 1** members proceeded down the Pass towards Nantmor. This section of the path was technically more difficult but well worth the challenge. This beautiful, dramatic section of the river is said to be the most scenic in Wales. At Nantmor we left the river to climb into the mountain landscape of Mynydd Sygyn before a panoramic decent to Llyn Dinas and back to the house having covered 6.5 miles.



Beddgelert Saturday walk 2

Eleven joined Walter on a lovely 7.2 mile walk in the Aberglaslyn and Gwynant valleys, which avoided the tricky gorge section of the Aberglaslyn Pass. Combining with walk 1, we visited Gelert's Grave and went to the start of the gorge section, then diverged and retreated to follow the other bank of the Glaslyn river. There was time to explore some of the quirky village sights in Beddgelert and have a picnic lunch before continuing on the upper section of the Glaslyn river to Llyn Dinas. On the way we greeted both the late arriving Chappells and the returning walk 1 party, before doing a part circuit of the lake towards Nantgwynant. Although a low level walk on good terrain, there had been plenty of interest and enjoyment, particularly observing the changing woodland scene ranging from tall forest, through lush woodland, to struggling birch and oak woods.

Walter Mason

On Saturday evening after dinner, guest speaker Keith Hulse, Mountain Leader, gave a fascinating slide presentation on managing Snowdon and it's many visitors.

Sunday 21st October: On the rails to Rhyd Ddu

We all (30) took part on this linear walk. It started with a steam train journey from Beddgelert to Rhyd Ddu near the western flank of Snowdon. Alas we were unable to see Snowdon due to heavy cloud cover which proceeded to dump serious rain on us from the moment we left the train and continued to do so for the next two hours! We walked the 4.9 miles to Beddgelert along the LON GWYRFAI multi user well made pathway through the Beddgelert Forest. Conditions got better later in the day to help our smiles return!

Monday 22 October Self-select day

This was a free choice day; one option planned was to visit Snowdon via Pen-y-pass. I am very pleased to report that seven walkers got to the summit of Snowdon (1085m); a first time for five of the group! We made the ascent along the Miners' track as planned and descended along the Pyg Track. The weather was good for walking with sunny intervals and refreshing breeze. It was intermittently misty on top but did clear at times to give stunning views of the coastline, the Llyn Peninsula, Menai Strait and inland towards Moel Siabod and beyond. A real treat!



David Burke

NOTICE OF AGM

High Lane U3A AGM will take place at 2 pm on 13 February 2019, at High Lane Village Hall. As well as the normal agenda items we have a special resolution regarding a change to our Constitution

Special Resolution – CHANGE TO THE OBJECT CLAUSE

The Charity Commission has recently advised our national body, the Third Age Trust, that the wording of our object clause needs to include all our activities, not limiting it to educational activities only. We need to adopt this agreed new wording to ensure that we comply with charity law and ensure that all our activities are covered by our insurance policies. The new wording is

“The advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work, by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development.”

Your Committee recommends that this resolution should be accepted. Members will be asked to vote on the resolution at the meeting.

HIGH LANE U3A

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS FOR 2019

The Officers and Committee for 2019 are to be elected at the AGM on 13 February 2019

If you wish to nominate any member for the Officers’ posts listed below or for the Committee, please complete the form and return it to Diane Saxon by the date of the monthly meeting on 1-9 January 2019. 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
Chair				
Vice Chair				
Treasurer				
Committee Member				