

u3a High Lane

Newsletter

November 2024



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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the November edition of the High Lane u3a newsletter. As always, thanks to the group leaders and members for their interesting articles and photographs and a warm welcome to our new members. We have another bumper edition this month which as well as our ongoing group activities, includes a report of the October music evening enjoyed by all, plus reports of the recent Rhone River cruise organised by the Travel group and the Walking group's holiday in the Brecon Beacons. A selection of images from these holidays decorates our cover this month.

Our next meeting is the Christmas party with afternoon tea and seasonal entertainment from Roger Browne. Tickets are available for you to purchase at the November meeting. The cost is £10. This event is usually oversubscribed so don't leave it too late to get your ticket.

Can we ask that if your group is arranging any visits, mainly weekends/weeks away with your group could you let Paul know as well in advance as you can so that we can avoid arranging events that may clash with your plans.

You will be pleased to hear that the membership fee for next year is unchanged, and we are planning some changes to streamline the renewal process. There is more information about this along with the programme of meetings for 2025 on page 4.

Attached to the newsletter email this month is the latest u3a Friends bitesize newsletter. This contains information about the new national u3a management team plus reports of activities taking place in u3as across the country.

The next issue of our newsletter will be December 2024. As usual, please send contributions to me at newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk by 29 November.

Diane Saxon

November Whispers

November dances on the breeze, With whispers through the amber trees, A tapestry of grey and gold, As autumn's stories now unfold.

Chill embraces morning dew, Beneath a sky of muted blue, Leaves that crunch beneath our feet, Echo songs, both old and sweet.

Frosty breath and woollen gloves, Silent tales of ancient loves, In November's quiet, calm and slow, We find a world in soft, warm glow.

Each day shorter than the last, A fleeting moment, fading fast, Yet in this time of quiet grace, November leaves a tender trace.

With thanks to Microsoft AI co-pilot for the poem! Perhaps the poets amongst our members would like to comment – for future editions?

MONTHLY MEETING

The speaker at October meeting was led by Barbara Kenneth whose talk was entitled The search for Maisie Bell. Barbara kindly stood in at the last moment as the booked speaker cancelled.

She told us about the emotional journey she and Paul have been on to trace Paul's birth family. It began when Paul found out in his twenties that he was adopted. Despite having had a loving childhood he decided, spurred on by Barbara, to search for his birth mother. There followed a difficult time trying to locate the relevant paperwork and discovering a name. One trail took them to Australia, but this was a dead end. They knew Paul had been born in Ireland, so they decided to visit.

In a series of remarkable chance meetings and courageous knocking on doors in a village called Annalong they found Paul's birth family. Barbara and Paul visit Ireland every year and his family continues to grow. He is indebted to Barbara for her determination and tenacity in keeping the search alive.

The talk was very well received, and Barbara was applauded for the courage it took to tell such an emotional story.

The next meeting is Wednesday November 13th when Kim Wright will speak about The Children's Air Ambulance.

Kath Wareham

Many of you who attended our last monthly meeting will know that our speaker for that day was unable to attend. Barbara Kenneth kindly stepped in with a wonderful talk and the afternoon was saved. As the new Speaker Secretary and with all the dates for 2025 organised it did get me thinking that I ought to have other avenues up my sleeve if we were to find ourselves in the same situation again. I have to say that we did get advance notice from our speaker; it was not 'on the day'.

With this in mind I suddenly realised that we have a lot of experts out there in our members and in particular our group leaders. If you would be willing to go on a list of speakers who I could call on next year if needed, please let me know; it would be much appreciated.

Lynn Arnold

AN IRISH EVENING AND 60'S MUSIC WITH JOSH AND BOB

The evening got under way with a super meal provided by Reflections. The aptly named Irish Tavern pie was delicious and comments on the chicken dish confirmed that was of the same quality.

Replete, we all settled back for the evening's entertainment, and we were not disappointed. The first half ranged from Irish ballads including Black Velvet Band, catchy tunes by The Dubliners to Ring of Fire by Johnny Cash which had us all toe tapping.



The second half started with a rousing rendition of Galway Girl followed by Whisky in the Jar. There followed several humorous songs including Seven Drunken Nights.

The evening ended with audience participation, The Wild Rover and Jeff Beck's High Ho Silver Lining. Certainly, an eclectic mix of music from start to finish.

A thoroughly enjoyable evening for which huge thanks should go to Barbara Kenneth. Not least because she had had a very busy week; standing in as Speaker on Wednesday at our monthly meeting and organiser of the event on Friday, well done Barbara.

Lynn Arnold

Parking at the Village Hall

We are aware that it has become more difficult to find spaces in the car park and this may be deterring members from coming to the monthly meeting or when arriving, having to return home as they could not park. If this has happened to you, would you please let Paul know.

MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025

Looking ahead to 2025, membership will be due at the AGM in February. We are pleased to say that we have been able to keep the membership fee at our excellent value of £8 with just an additional £4 if you would like the u3a magazine. You will be able to renew your membership at the January and February meetings. This year you will only need to complete a renewal form if there are any changes to your contact details.

The u3a Matters magazine is available to all members. There are five issues each year: February, April, June, September and November. It contains news from the Trust and u3as across the country. There are regular sections including letters from members, a competition, crossword, bridge notes and maths puzzles, information and advertisements relevant to u3a members.



PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS FOR 2025

DATE	SPEAKER	TITLE
8 th January	Colin Mail	Lyme: Science & Superstition, Leeches and Leghs
12 th February		AGM
12 th March	Brian Groom	Made in Manchester: The story of the city that shaped the modern world.
9 th April	Philip Caine	From Barrow to Baghdad and back again.
14 th May	Eric Newton	The Life and Times of a Busker.
11 th June	Sue Holden	...and the band played on.
9 th July	Joy and Kevin Siddall	DNA of British Musicals
13 th August	Frank Pleszak	The bombing of New Mills and Hayfield.
10 th September	Pete Turner	Through the eyes of a Magician.
8 th October	David Seddon	Why do we go to School?
12 th November	Lynn Moores or Nick Sheardown	Stockport Magistrates
10 th December	Joy and Kevin Siddall	Christmas Party: Crooning at Christmas.

Thanks to Lynn for coming up with what looks like a very varied and interesting programme.

GROUP NEWS

ART

The Art group was lucky enough to have a Pastels workshop with Jeremy Ford this month. The subject was the Northern Lights in winter scenery. Very topical with the recent view we've enjoyed.



Madeleine Hennessey

HANDBELL RINGING

Latest Report from Phoenix Ringers

We continue ringing weekly and keep adding new pieces to our repertoire. There are two local events which may be of interest to u3a members, in which we are involved.

One is the Christmas Tree festival at St Thomas's church High Lane, Friday, November 22nd 11- 4.00 and Saturday, 23rd same time. It was really nice last year with lots of Christmassy things for sale, and all the colourful trees on display. Refreshments too! We are ringing our bells during the Saturday P.M.

The other event is at Chadkirk Chapel in Romily, on Sunday 24th November between 12.00 and 4.00. There will be a group of flautists playing and us ringing bells. There is no charge, but they sell teas and coffee. The car park is not too near the chapel, but it's a nice little walk away.

Kate Hellar

CHURCHES AND PUBS

Wednesday December 4th

St. Christopher's, Pott Shrigley.

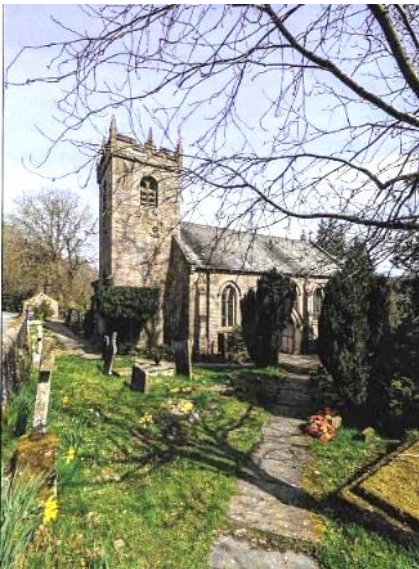
Lunch at The John Millington, Cheadle Hulme.

If you would like to go, please give your names to Pam Cooke at the November u3a meeting.

Any ideas for Churches for next year please let me know.

Paul Kenneth

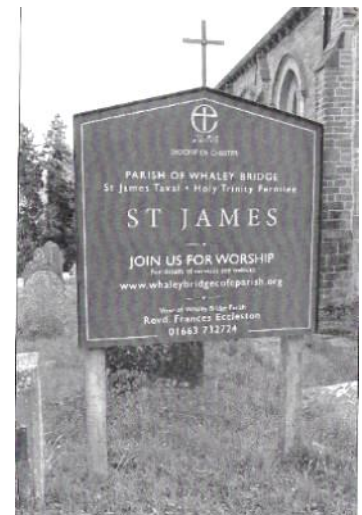
Visit to St. James' Church Taxal, October 2nd



Hidden in a tiny Hamlet down narrow lane, a mile and a half from the town centre, lies this ancient church, which remained the main place of worship for the Whaley Bridge area until 1905, and even today hosts the town's only burial ground.

The question was why it was there in the first place. The answer when it was first built, the hamlet consisted of the church, an Inn and the Manor House. It existed as it was the only crossing of the Goyt River on the trail from Northwich to then Pennines for the salt mines.

The oldest part of the church, within the tower, dates from the 12th century, the rest of the tower being 14th century. The church was rather small but was restored in the late 17th and 18th centuries, at which time the battlements were added to the tower. The church was restored and enlarged in 1825. In 1886 Samuel Evans oversaw the almost complete rebuilding of the church, including three new stained-glass windows, an alabaster pulpit, an organ, the tower clock and four new bells, with two old ones being recast.



Our thanks to Christopher Johnson for his informative talk and the ladies for providing coffee and biscuits. We then went to the Beehive at Combes for a delightful lunch.

Gill and David Edmondson

CRIME FICTION READING

At the October meeting the group discussed the book "A Killing in November", the first in a new series set in Oxford featuring D. I.s Ryan Wilkins and Ray Wilkins by Simon Mason an author new to some of us. A lively discussion ensued during which several members said they considered some aspects of the story were unlikely and the sometimes graphic violence wasn't to everyone's taste, but even so it was considered to be a "page turner."

The novel starts with a detailed description of the grounds and buildings of the fictitious St Barnabas College where a special dinner is being prepared in honour of an important guest, Sheik al Medina, who it is hoped will make a hefty financial donation to the college. The appropriate dons are gathered to welcome and entertain him. In the Buttery the kitchen staff, including Ameena, a Syrian refugee, are preparing the meal. Things don't go well with the Sheik who leaves before the main course is served, much to the consternation of the Proctor who returns to his lodgings to find the body of a dead young woman sprawled across the floor. The police are called, and we are introduced to DI Ryan Wilkins, recently attached to Thames Valley police, who was brought up on a trailer park in a poor area of Oxford. He's clever, intuitive, given to moments of inspiration but is also unruly, rude and outspoken and doesn't easily tolerate those he sees as "the privileged elite". He is joined in the investigation by DI Ray Wilkins who works by the rule book, is handsome and well dressed, educated at Balliol College, a Boxing Blue and comes from a wealthy, London based, Nigerian family. Not surprisingly they don't get on although as the story progresses a tentative camaraderie begins to form.

We meet an array of characters, mostly dubious in some way; we learn more about Ameena and the victim and there is another killing. We are also introduced to Ryan's two-year-old toddler son who likes to have "conversations" with his Daddy, who loves his little boy dearly, and we are also introduced to Ray's lovely but seemingly anxious wife, Diane, who when they meet by chance, likes Ryan and his engaging little son.

Throughout the story Oxford almost features as a character itself with atmospheric descriptions of the city and its environs, which were of particular interest to the members of the group who know the place well. There are frantic car journeys, riots and fights for the duo to contend with before the crimes are solved and the murderer caught.

The book chosen for the November meeting is "Original Sin" by PD James.

Nancy Colclough

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Topics discussed at our October meeting were:

1 Gifts given to present government.

We thought that the government had let themselves down on this issue by accepting gifts from donors, it doesn't go down with the general public. While this is the main topic of conversation and debate, it takes away the workings and decisions of what any government is doing.

2. Should MPs be allowed other jobs

Most of us were not in favour as becoming an MP is a full-time job.

3. Labour government want to make plans to build on green land.

People desperately need homes but there has to be the infrastructure to go with them, such as new schools, Doctors surgeries and local transport.

4. Bedtime preferences.

There was quite a wide variety of things we do before settling down. One of us liked to watch old comedies like To the Manor Born, another news programmes, others read books before dropping off.

5. Paternity Leave.

Companies to increase paternity leave for men. Should it be more than two weeks. We had mixed views on this subject.

6. New Leader for the Conservative Party

Is this leadership contest taking a long time to decide who will be the best candidate.

7. Middle East

The situation in the Middle East is escalating every day. A ceasefire needs to be agreed and that all sides need to come up with a peaceful agreement.

8. Stop and Search

Should there be more stop & searches from the police to stop more and more young people from carrying knives. We were in favour of this.

9. Mobile Phones in Schools.

Some primary schools are considering banning smart phones in school, many children were bringing them into school. We all agreed on them being banned.

10. Drivers over 80

Should drivers over the age 80 be made to take a driving test or a course from this age?

11. Cheaper Electricity

Plans for cheaper electricity with building more pylons but where they will go? We thought more wind turbines at sea was a better solution.

Angela Knight

GERMAN

We continue to meet every Friday at 10am, sometimes quite a small group when people are on holiday. Sadly, we are likely to lose 2 long-standing members in the coming months who are relocating south to be near their families, but however small the group, we shall continue to meet to discuss subjects of general interest.

Marlene Brookes

HISTORY

We had a very interesting presentation on the early development of sound recording. The first inventors of sound recording were Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell who co-operated together, but the relationship was not good. Sound was first recorded on cylinders and then progressed to discs. Recording music was difficult as there wasn't any 'popular' music, which didn't come in until the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Another problem was the variety of languages spoken on the east coast of America due to migration, so in order to make the recordings financially viable, music had to be recorded in a wide variety of languages. The presenter also brought along a 1921 record player and some records of that time: how things have changed!

Pam Curley

READING

At our October meeting we discussed THE SHIPPING NEWS by Annie Proulx, the story of Quoyle, a journalist on a provincial paper who relocates with his aunt and two small children to Newfoundland to the old family home, to work on the local paper where his specialist subject is the shipping news. We get to know members of the community in this harsh environment, the tragedies that befall them and the comic situations in which they find themselves. Proulx's great writing skills present us with a harsh landscape of great beauty, but also of danger. These people love their homeland, but their way of life is changing with the advent of industrial fishing and the discovery of oil in the North Atlantic. This was a book we all enjoyed.

Our November book is set nearer to home in 1970's Birmingham, THE ROTTERS' CLUB by Jonathan Coe

Marlene Brookes

MEMOIRS

October meeting (number 57)

This meeting had accounts and stories about the following:

- Life from the age of 53 through various ventures including sale of a garage, Peak Walking Company, working for the probation service, sailing and motorbike hobbies and art work.
- Theme of 40 foods from the past, including Wagon Wheels, Mr Whippy, Arctic Roll, Toffee Apples and Pear Drops to name just a few. The group added Tripe and Spam.
- Holiday jobs for students, this time working in a mental health institution for two summers.
- A marriage story, how as a young nurse she was set up by a patient to go out with her son. They have now been married for 58 years. Her husband describes it as 'an arranged marriage'.
- An account of a search investigating the final resting place of a relative who was on a ship torpedoed in 1941. Memorials were found to him and others who died with him, all with the help of The Imperial War Museum.
- A story of 'make do and mend' about her father who did shoe repairs and made toys. Her husband was a better mender than inventor and how he made a radiogram from scratch.
- A story of eating a cockroach and green ants in a bush tucker trial in Australia, together with photographic evidence.
- A story about a Norwegian friend and the connection to Roald Dahl.
- A father's dislike of next doors tom cat. He threw water over it to chase it away and managed to flood the neighbour's kitchen. A very cross neighbour knocked on his door soaking wet. This had everyone in fits of laughter.

There was a summary of our 56 meetings to date covering our time together since September 2019. There were email sessions during lockdown to keep the group going. The summary covers our topics, major themes and the progress we have made as a group. There was a tribute to Sheila Harrop who started the group and was with us for 50 of those sessions.

Another excellent meeting with lots of discussion triggered by the readings.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, 5th November at 2.0pm in the small hall.

Barbara Kenneth

PHOTOGRAPHY

We are pleased to welcome Barbara and Tony to the group.
This month's topic was Potratits. We had a good number of entries.
The results are

1st... Cuddling cat...Walter,8 points

2nd...Joint placed Lady in black, Tony, Baby face ...Diane, both with 6 points

3rd... It's cold outside...Walter 5 points.

Well done all.



This month's topic is " MULTI-COLOURED", if anyone would like to enter their photos, please send them by 21st November to photographygroupleader@highlaneu3a.org.uk and I will include them in the competition.

Ken Jackson

SHORT WALKS

19 October 2024 – A mystery walk

Meeting at High Lane Village Hall Car Park the group of ten set out on an autumnal misty morning not knowing where they would be walking! After leaving the car park and walking down the canal, passing Pool House Farm (PPP route no. 1) onto the Middlewood way until the next exit onto prince's incline bearing right onto (PPP No 2. Crossing Middlewood road onto (PPP No.11) taking the group to New House Farm (sadly derelict) turning right we ventured onto (PPP No.12) downhill to Middlewood Road crossing and finding (PPP No.13) over the stream via pedestrian bridge finding ourselves in a garden where the "fairy ring" had sprouted.



Found the gap in the garden wall and followed the yellow way markers the group ventured onto Middlewood Station, just missing a train to Manchester – but not for us as we gained access to the Middlewood Way and the canal via High Lane Cricket Club and a short walk brought us back to H.L.V.H. Then the sun shone.

PPP – Poynton Parish Paths – Produced by the Poynton Parish Council.

The Short Walks Group meet next on Saturday 16 November 09.30 hrs at High Lane Village Hall Car Park – or 09.45 hrs parking on Counting House Road, Disley. Walking through Old Disley, Gritstone trail into Lyme Park via the old bridge and lodge gate to Lyme Hall. Taking the lower path under cage hill to ticket office along Red Lane and back to Counting House Road. May be walked in reverse!!



PLEASE NOTE THE DECEMBER WALK WILL BE ON Wednesday 18 December 09.30 hrs High Lane Village Hall Car Park OR meet at the Navigation Pub, Buxworth at 10.00 hrs for an approximate 4-mile walk. Meal Optional. Menu from Ruth.

Ruth Smith

TRAVEL GROUP

RHONE RIVER CRUISE HOLIDAY

After an uneventful flight we arrived at Nice Airport about 6pm and then had a long coach journey to Avignon reaching the ship, the William Shakespeare, after 10:30pm.

The following day we had a guided tour of Avignon in bright sunshine but unfortunately with a very brisk cold wind. We were impressed by the ancient walls surrounding the city which is historically connected with the Catholic Church. The Pope's Palace was home to nine Popes after conflict in Rome. Avignon



was considered safe because of its walls and narrow bridge crossing the River Rhone. The Papacy eventually returned to Rome in the 14th century. In the evening, we were introduced to the crew at a cocktail party followed by a welcome dinner.

Our coach awaited us in bright sunshine with the mistral blowing along the Rhone. We headed for Arles a town associated with van Gogh. We saw the house he occupied for part of his short and very troubled life, painted yellow, the colour he was famous for in lots of his paintings. We also discovered that he only sold one painting in his entire life. His fame came later. We walked around the amphitheatre with the normal theatre next door and saw the local church once the highest in the world. A feature of the Roman heritage of Arles are lion statues on the



obelisk and near the town hall. After returning to the ship for lunch we again set off by coach to Pont du Gard. What a magnificent structure that is, amazing engineering (made Marple aqueduct look like a toy one!) The setting with the river flowing below made this visit one of the most picturesque of the whole trip. Many paths to explore like a huge park. I could have easily spent a day there, but all good things must come to an end.

On our excursion to the Ardeche Gorge we enjoyed magnificent views of spectacular limestone cliffs, caves and the stunning Pont d'Arc, a natural arch across the river. The weather deteriorated, cloud or mist descended, and the atmosphere became rather eerie.



The mist covered the bottom of the gorge- very dramatic. We went on to a lavender farm but unfortunately too late to see any (mid-July) It was raining so coffee and the usual visit to the gift shop. It was full of all things lavender and a real eyeopener of what you can do with it. I bought some lavender bags to put in my drawers when I return home. They will reminder of the holiday but are very old lady.

Riviera is 40 years old this year so there was a presentation in the lounge with birthday cake and fizz and we all sang Happy Birthday. This was followed by a change of plan for our trip. The river Soane was we too high, all that rain, making it impossible for the ship to go under the bridges. We were given options for that day and decisions to be made. The choice was Tournon, a pretty town with a quiet square and a bridge over the river of course. The entertainment after dinner was Ballroom dancing. A history of dancing through the ages the French way. The couple showed us the French version of Tango. Jive, Polka Waltz etc. The lady had seven changes of costume depicting not only the change of dance but the change of fashion. They ended up with Dancing Queen, very enjoyable. A great day of contrasts.

The next day we had a planned trip to Beaune but the River Saone was too high so we were unable to cruise to Chalon-Sur-Saone as planned so we faced longer coach journeys to reach Beaune a walled city (pronounced "Bone") which is located between Lyon and Dijon and is the centre of Burgundy wine production and rich in historical and architectural heritage dating back to Roman times. For those of us who attempted the journey in what was, to begin with, inclement weather it turned out to be well worth the effort.

Our guide walked us through the beautiful main centre of Beaune indicating buildings from the medieval and renaissance periods and pointed out its importance to the wine industry of this area. After lunch, we visited a winery and tasted some beautiful wines of the region interspersed with tasty treats of warm cheese dough balls and bread to clear the palate.

The very knowledgeable soil scientist guide explained that the soils of each region had as much influence on the variation of each wine as the grape. He gave us a great tip on how to really appreciate the wine by “eating it” rather than just swallowing it and we did find we appreciated the full flavour more of each wine. Finishing off we had Cassis a rich blackcurrant liqueur apparently full of vitamin C, that tasted to me like a thick Ribena but warming just the same and I convinced myself that it was healthy!



The height of the river meant the ship moored for two nights in Lyon, the third largest city in France. Lyon made its fortune from the silk industry; Interpol has its headquarters there and it is an important centre for cancer research. There were beautiful views of the city from the viewing point near the Basilica. We were able to sit in the pews and admire the superb architecture inside. We also visited the cathedral which has a golden statue of the Virgin Mary on top. This was followed by a walk around the picturesque old town and a stop for coffee in a pavement café. A man came to our table and asked if we were English. He put a coin on the table. A euro coin is very like a pound coin. Turning it over it had the Queen's head on the back so he said we could keep it. Along the cobbled streets were many interesting shops including the “The New Delhi” which had colourful clothes and gifts. Purchases were made! On our way back to the ship we visited the nearby Confluence Shopping Mall which enabled us to buy souvenirs and presents. Another good day!

Our return flight was from Geneva Airport which involved a two-hour coach journey from Lyon. We were able to admire the beautiful Swiss scenery and villages. After checking in, on what to many of us are complicated machines, we boarded our flight back to Manchester arriving mid-afternoon.

Contributions from
Phyllis Kenworthy, Diana Moore, Pam Andrew, Pam Cooke, Kath Shah,
Margaret McDermott

Travel for 2025

Kings Lynn April 11th–14th.

Isle of Wight July 7th–13th.

If there is sufficient interest, we can arrange Ireland and another river cruise. Please let us know if you are interested.



Margaret McDermott

WALKING

Brecon Beacons 3-night holiday 11th to 14th October 2024

This walking group holiday was hailed as a complete success by all the 23 participants who ventured to South Wales. The scope and variety of activities aided by a great place to stay and good weather provided a winning formula. Our schedule is summarised herewith.

Friday 11th October 2024

Travelled to Powis Castle, Welshpool, SY21 8RF

This National Trust gem was an excellent venue to break our car journey to Brecon and allow us to explore the castle, extensive formal gardens/woodland and have lunch. We then continued our journey through the centre of picturesque Wales to our accommodation – Nythfa House Hotel, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7NN. After check-in we enjoyed a welcoming cream tea followed by a group briefing in the common room before adjourning to the bar followed by an excellent dinner.

Saturday 12th October 2024



After a hearty breakfast we all started a group guided walk around Brecon via King St., Brecon Cathedral and Castle, River Usk and the town centre ending at the Brecon Theatre Cafe at Brecon Canal Basin. After a coffee stop, we

boarded a boat for our 2-mile trip along the Monmouth & Brecon Canal to Brynich Lock and Brynich Aqueduct. Here the group split into several subgroups with a series of walk options to suit walking capabilities, all focused on returning to Brecon along the towpath or Usk River path, for further exploring and site-seeing.

After dinner and coffee, our evening entertainment included two quiz sessions, one organised by HF Holidays and one presented by our member – Peter Wareham – many thanks Peter – we've all now recovered from the mind stretching complexity of your contribution!

Sunday 13th October 2024

After another comprehensive breakfast, we all started out from Nythfa House on a guided walk to Pen-y-Crug and Hill fort.



This easy 4.4 mile walk around the outskirts of Brecon, via beautiful woodland, led to a short climb to the summit of Pen-y-Crug and Hill Fort. (we approached quietly and were lucky enough to see a Welsh Dragon!). The summit also provided a rewarding view of the Brecon Beacons across the valley (see photo). We then descended back towards Brecon via Meen Du Well where we had our picnic lunch before returning to Brecon Cathedral and onward to Nythfa House.



After enjoying dinner and coffee the evening entertainment commenced – Skittles! This was played on a special portable wooden track laid out in the common room. Almost everybody took part including members of another walking group staying at the house which led to a fiercely contested knockout tournament. Several of our members performed exceptionally well reaching the final stages including Merlyn Young, Marje Rennell and Peter Wareham. Peter went on to be the overall winner producing a deadly accurate final performance in a play-off against another skilful member of the other group. (a sort of redemption after the taxing quiz!)

Monday 14th October 2024



This was our final day – a free format day – everyone did their own thing. Unfortunately, this was the day our luck with the weather changed and poor visibility put paid to a small group of us that planned to climb Pen-y-Fan (the highest Beacon) and Corn Du. We did however meet later at Chirk Castle near Wrexham, another National Trust property, on the way home.



So, there you have it, a summary of the walking group action packed adventure to the Brecon Beacons. Everyone expressed very positive views on the whole trip, reinforced by our good fortune with the October weather!

David Burke

Walk 30 October 2024: Sir William Hill / Bretton/Abney Cloughs / Hazelford

A resilient team of thirteen walkers assembled at the east end of Sir William Hill for a 5 mile walk that should have given us panoramic views of this beautiful part of the Peak District. However, the weather had other ideas!



Setting off west in a fairly thick mist and a cool temperature, we ascended the old byway, then turned north across Eyam Moor to the highest point where the mist had started to clear, giving us a glimpse of the stunning scenery.

With the elevated position and the path then ascending into Bretton Clough, more picturesque views emerged, tempered somewhat by the need to look where we were going on a very muddy path!

Arriving at Stoke Ford, the confluence of two streams gave us a pleasant and tranquil spot for a coffee break.



The route then took us east to Hazelford, passing a spectacular ants nest (shame on those that poked it with their walking poles!) and Tor Farm, which displayed a couple of superb antique cheese presses. The welcome stop here for lunch gave us good views over Hathersage, with Stanage and Bamford Edges and Win Hill in the distance.



Our final ascent up Eyam Moor bought us back to the vehicles, which we then used to get to the Barrel Inn for some afternoon refreshments!

Well done everyone, a great day out!

Peter Wareham

NATIONAL OFFICE LEARNING EVENTS

This is just a selection of the events this month. All are free on Zoom and are normally very well attended.

5 November	Aviation meeting
7 November	Cookery demo
7 November	Summing up the 19th Century
15 November	The Drifting Continents – a Lesson in Geology
18 November	A Deep Dive into the 1921 Census

Click [here](#) for details and to book a place.

SCIENCE NETWORK

Exploring the Universe with the James Webb Space Telescope

Wednesday, December 4

Professor Steve Wilkins outlines some discoveries made and mysteries revealed about our Universe by the James Webb Space Telescope.

The James Webb Space Telescope's First Years of Discovery

The culmination of more than two decades of effort by scientists and engineers across the world, the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST or Webb) launched on Christmas Day 2021 and commenced scientific observations now just over two and a half years ago. In this time Webb's exquisite sensitivity, resolution, and wavelength coverage has enabled astronomers to explore our Universe as never before. We've now peered through clouds of gas and dust to observe stars and planets forming, analysed the atmospheres of alien planets, and discovered galaxies present when the Universe was only a tiny fraction of its age. In this talk I will introduce Webb and outline some of the discoveries it's made so far, along with some of the new mysteries about our Universe that it has revealed.

DID YOU KNOW?

- November got its name from "novem" which is Latin for the number nine. In the Roman calendar, November was the ninth month until 153 BCE when January and February were added, causing it to move to the 11th month.
- On November 4th, 1922, British archaeologist Howard Carter discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun in Luxor, Egypt.
- November has six of the rarest birthdays on the calendar: November 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28.