

u3a High Lane

Newsletter

October 2024



Inside this month

From the Editor
Programme of meetings for 2025
Monthly meeting
Group activities
u3a National learning events
Maths challenge
Did you know

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the October edition of the High Lane u3a newsletter. As always, thanks to the group leaders and contributors for their interesting articles and photographs and a warm welcome to our new members. I have raided the archives again for this month’s cover photo which shows the Crown Green Bowling group on a summer away day in Prestatyn, way back in 2014. They clearly had better weather than we are currently experiencing. Attached to the email is the u3a Friends bitesize newsletter for September. This contains reports of many varied activities taking place in u3as across the country. Additionally there is a special u3a week Friends newsletter which [you can access here](#).

Christmas party tickets with afternoon tea and seasonal entertainment from Roger Browne will be available for you to purchase at the October meeting. The cost is £10. This event is usually oversubscribed so don’t leave it too late to get your ticket.

The next issue of our newsletter will be November 2024. As usual, please send contributions to me at newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk by 27 October.

Diane Saxon

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.

MONTHLY MEETING

The speaker at the September monthly meeting was John Wallace whose talk was entitled Ten Thousand Years of Bling (Alderley Edge). He began by describing the modern state of affairs in Alderley Edge. He was derogatory in a light-hearted way about the influx of the posh newly rich with their big flash cars and their huge mansions. Their desire for brightly coloured clothes and jewellery and displaying them in social gatherings.



He then took us back to the Alderley Edge of thousands of years ago and made comparisons between the two eras. Even in those days people were drawn to the Edge. People came to the wells to offer votives to their gods and celebrate the solstices. Copper and cobalt mining provided colourful oxides which were used to dye their clothes. They were ground for make-up. Bronze was made from copper and tin and made into items of jewellery. These outward signs of wealth would be displayed. When the railway arrived the wealthy cotton owners of Manchester were encouraged to build large houses in Alderley in return for free travel.

Alderley Edge has always had magical connections and still draws people today to search for the legends of wizards and charmers either in the night clubs or the beautiful countryside. The talk was very well received.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 9th October when Maria Grimsley will give a talk entitled Born in a Trunk.

A new film looking back on u3a Festival 24

Our new film, recorded at u3a Festival 24 this summer, showcases the fun of the u3a movement as members connect together to play walking football, perform music and learn about astronomy.

You can watch the film here. [u3a Festival 24 | u3a UK \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)



GROUP NEWS

ART

I joined the Art group 2.5 years ago having never done any Artwork before although I did have a career as a Design Engineer working all over the world. At first, I wasn't sure if I would get in to Art but having picked up a second-hand book on Picasso and Impressionism, in the shop at Lyme Hall, I started researching other Artists.

One of my favourite artists is Geoffrey Key and I have recently been working on this picture. I buy board at Tomlinson Parbans, paint an underlayer then sketch out on top. I've done quite a few large pieces like this and have set up an Art gallery in my loft. I'm really enjoying the Art group now.



Graham Cowley

BALLROOM DANCING

After an extended summer break, 16 dancers enjoyed Kate and Ian's pleasant mix of ballroom and sequence dancing. The group will now meet fortnightly till Christmas.

Walter Mason

CANASTA

The weekly Tuesday canasta group continues to be popular. There is no fee for playing and no knowledge of the game required. Just turn up at 7pm at The Royal Oak pub and you will be welcomed by our friendly group and shown how to play.

Pauline Wright

canastaleader@highlaneu3a.org.uk

CHURCHES AND PUBS

Wednesday October 2nd. Taxal Church.

Meet at church at 10–30am.

Wednesday December 4th. St. Christophers Church, Pott Shrigley

Lunch at The Aviator, Woodford Festive Menu

Deposit of £10 required. Balance to be paid by November meeting.

MEMOIRS

We had a thought-provoking meeting in September. It is amazing how many memories are triggered by different stories.

There were several memories based on the things that we grew up without.

- One account on this theme. No garden, no heating apart from a coal fire, no bathroom, no fridge no telephone, no television, no carpets, no holidays away from home, no car.
- There was no unhealthy food and no antibiotics. However did we manage but we did.
- Another account of no siblings, no bike and no bananas.
- A poem about no tea bags, no pasta or curry. How the tea cosy was the forerunner of an energy saving device. We were in fits of laughter.
- There was an account of things 'I grew up with in Connecticut that were different'. A wooden house built by her family and friends on land gifted by her granddad. There was a television, and we all reminisced about the westerns she watched.
- One lady remembered buying their first house in High Lane in 1963 for £2,600. It had a coal fire and electric heaters in some rooms.
- A story about meeting a future husband whose mother was in charge of a telephone exchange. An amusing piece of history about telephones.
- A police tale under the theme of 'Not knowing whether to laugh or cry' and the same theme about an incident with his brother and the robbery of empty bags of money.
- A poem entitled 'You should get a dog' and the trials and tribulations of having the lovely Ruby.
- A story about living in Nigeria. Quite an experience.
- Recollections about a holiday going around China called 'Fun and Fear'. Her holiday companion was always getting into scrapes. Visits included the largest Buddha, a panda sanctuary, the Terracotta Army and the Great Wall of China.
- Memories of 'child labour' about jobs mucking out manure, doing a paper round, babysitting and being a cleaner in a shirt factory for 50p an hour.
- Two poems about the local town, the high street, shops and drinking places.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, October 1st.

Barbara Kenneth

CRIME FICTION READING

The crime fiction book group met on 13 September to discuss *After the Fire* by Henning Mankell. The book begins with the main character's, Fredrik Welin's, house having been burned down and we discover the perpetrator at the end, but we questioned that it is really a crime fiction novel. We thought the book is well written and enjoyed the atmospheric descriptions of life in the Swedish archipelago.

This was the last book written by Mankell before his death in 2015 at the age of 67; Welin, is depicted as aged 70. The book is full of Welin's remorse and melancholy, and it is easy to suspect that some of the content is a reflection on Mankell's own regrets near the end of his life. Our general view was that we do not recommend this book if you are looking for an uplifting read.

Our next meeting will be on 18 October when we will be discussing *A Killing in November* by Simon Mason.

Betty Mackman

QUIZZING

The Quiz group has had a break following the Quiz night in August. One of the rounds on the quiz night was famous people all born in 1960. See how many you can identify?



We have two more meetings this year and would welcome members who might like to come along and see what we do. We have many kinds of questions; every quiz is different. Please contact me if you would like more information.

Diane Saxon

CURRENT AFFAIRS

At our afternoon meeting we discussed:

The proposed smoking ban in outside areas such as beer gardens, public parks and outside restaurants. Some of us thought it was good thing and some thought it wasn't necessary to ban smoking outside. One member said they could double the tax on cigarettes rather than us becoming even more of a nanny state.

Winter fuel payment and why some people who need it do not claim pension credit. We put it down to the form being too difficult for older people to understand and this was a downside to it being withdrawn for everyone who isn't on pension credit. This led onto the state pension, the triple lock and the tax we all have to pay.

Renewable energy. Should we have more pylons? We thought they were acceptable on moorland and out at sea. One member mentioned a cancer connection for people living very close to them and the noise they make was also noted.

Recycling plastic. Is Britain doing enough? We thought that supermarkets could do more to reduce plastic by banning plastic bags altogether and cutting down on plastic wrapping. The danger to wildlife was discussed but we thought that as individuals we were doing our best.

Should junior doctors and train drivers have had a pay rise. We all agreed that the junior doctors should, but one person didn't agree with the rise for the train drivers.

Other subjects included the recent riots, Brexit – should we rejoin? Last of all we discussed High Lane post office, the closing date and its usages. We all agreed we will miss the convenience of having a post office in our village.

Thank you to Margaret for providing tea and cake, a nice, interesting afternoon was had by all.

Betty Smith

TRAVEL

Kings Lynn April 11th–14th.

Isle of Wight July 7th–13th. £50 Deposit at October meeting.



DAY TRIPS: If you have any places you would like to visit, please let us know.

Margaret McDermott

GARDENING

13 of us enjoyed Maureen's garden, with its substantial use of small shrubs in pots an engaging feature. Her suntrap patio was a particular popular attraction.

Gardens are winding down now for autumn, but some views from Barbara's and Walter's gardens seem to be bucking the trend.



Walter Mason

PHOTOGRAPHY

Hello all. The Photo group at the moment is fairly small, and new members are always welcome. We don't hold meetings, we just have a monthly competition, online. We submit three of our own pictures of the relevant topic and they are voted on by the other members. No fancy equipment really needed, a simple point and press digital camera or your mobile phone is enough.

September's topic was " Churches/churchyards" and the voting went so.....

1 St Margaret's church, Bodelwyddan, taken by Jeff Robinson.

2.Norbury church, taken by Walter Mason

3.St Mary's church, Disley, again, one of Jeff's pictures



This month's topic is " PORTRAIT", if anyone would like to enter their photos, please send them by October 17th to photographygroupleader@highlaneu3a.org.uk and I will include them in the competition.

Ken Jackson

SHORT WALKS

Saturday 21st September 2024

The magnificent seven started out on a cloudy morning with the threat of rain. However, the sun did show nearer the end of the walk. Yes. There were seven of us – Maggie took the photo.

The walk started from the Marple Ridge Quarry on Ridge Road walking down to Kitling House (formerly The Romper), through Ridge End Fold and across the fields to Wybersley Road, then crossing into Turf Lea Road and walking through the hamlet. The group passed the site of Turf Lea Madder Works where a red dye was made for the uniforms of soldiers (the chimney still stands to this day, built to let air through as there was no stream to work the machinery). Later bone grinding was introduced as the production of natural dyes declined. Bone was grounded and sent, probably by narrow boat to the potteries. (Thanks, Mike, for all the info on this walk. I trust I got the facts right).



Walking up through Stanleyhall Wood onto Disley Golf course to the club house was our next part of the walk crossing the fairways and following a path to the canal towpath, admiring the views over Mellor and spotting the Mellor Cross en-route to Plucksbridge Road. Last 'leg'; leaving the canal to climb Hollinwood Lane back to Kitling House and the quarry car park. Thank you, Maggie and Mike, for a very interesting and informative walk.

October Walk at the moment is a Mystery Walk with the range of 3–4 miles – details later. The November Walk will be in the Lyme Park area.

Date for your diary: The 18th December Walk of just under 4 miles will start and finish at the Navigation Pub in Buxworth Basin. The pub will allow us to park and provide a menu for an after-walk meal. Names will be taken at the U3A October Meeting of folk wishing to dine, hopefully a menu will be available then.

Ruth Smith

WALKING

On this fairly cloudy but improving late September cool day, 13 walkers led by Ian Hope, enjoyed this circular walk. Having parked on Mudhurst Lane near Rocks Farm we climbed up to the ridge known as Black Rocks, which provided far reaching views westward, tempered somewhat by limited distant visibility.



We then lost some altitude descending to the former Moorside Hotel, sat on a convenient wall and had our mid-morning coffee stop.

Our onward bridlepath towards Whaley Bridge led to The Dipping Stone, providing much group speculation about its origin. Its location also provided a 360-degree unsurpassed distant view of the whole landscape – well worth a visit.



We then proceeded downhill, stopping at a convenient sheltered spot for a picnic lunch before reaching Yardsley Hall near Furness Vale, from where we started a steady ascent up Furness Clough to Broadhey Farm – which has benefitted from extensive renovation of the outbuildings into impressive dwellings.



Our next leg over Kiln Knoll provided concerned excitement when a large herd of very curious young heifers and bulls took delight in escorting us, at close quarters, across their field!

We then passed Redmoor Farm, climbed up to cross

Buxton Old Road and took field paths back to our cars, thankful that the brightening conditions stayed dry throughout the enjoyable outing.

David Burke

NATIONAL OFFICE LEARNING EVENTS

- 3 October The Unification of the British Isles: A Lesson in Geology
- 4 October Vincent Van Gogh
- 10 October Visualising Statistical concepts
- 11 October The Vital Role Chemistry has to play in Saving our planet
- 18 October Food, foresight and the future of farming
- 24 October Science Network event: The Climate Crisis and Some Solutions
- 28 October AI News

These are free on Zoom. Click [here](#) for details and to book a place.

I joined one of the September talks, entitled Decimals, old and new, given by Dr Ron Knott of the University of Surrey. There were fewer attendees than is usual for the u3a talks and you had to be awake for this one!

Dr Ron started by explaining that there are three different types of fractions. First, those that stop after a few decimal places such as 1/2, 1/4, 1/5, 1/8. These are called terminating decimals. Others become an endlessly repeating cycle of the same digits such as 1/3, 1/6, 1/7. These are called recurring decimal fractions. These recurring fractions are of two kinds: those which are solely a collection of digits that repeat from the beginning, such as 0.3 which is just 3 repeating for ever and 1/7 which is 142857 endlessly repeated. These are called purely repeating decimal fractions. Others start off with a fixed set of digits before they too eventually settle down to an endless repetition of the same digits, such as 1/6 = 0.166666... which begins 0.1 and then cycles 6 indefinitely, or 1/12 = 0.0833333... which starts 0.08 before it too starts to repeat 3 for ever. These are called mixed recurring decimal fractions.

He went on to explore fractions which produce decimal values with interesting patterns, including even numbers, odd numbers, powers, and even Fibonacci numbers.

Here are some of them

1/11 = 0.0909009090909 ...

1/98 = 0.01 02 04 08 16 3

1/97 = 0. 01 03 09 27 83 50 51 54 63 ...

1/9801 = 0. 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 ...

He ended with a comment that π has recently been calculated to a new record of 105 trillion decimal places – and this will be the subject of his next talk.

Diane Saxon

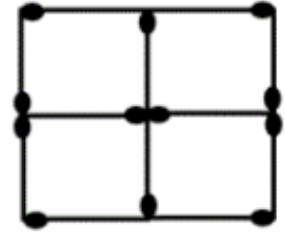


Help us remember

Following the 80th anniversary of D-Day on 6 June, we are aiming to create a collection of photographs sent by u3a members portraying Second World War memorials. These could relate to relatives or close connections, or perhaps to the subject(s) of research carried out by u3a members or groups. Where is the memorial, what is the name and why, and are there any relevant photographs or other information? Submit your photo to: u3a.org.uk/learning/learning-activities/help-us-remember

Maths Challenge

A challenge from the National Maths puzzle page. Move only three of the matchsticks in the drawing to create three equal squares. All match sticks must be used.



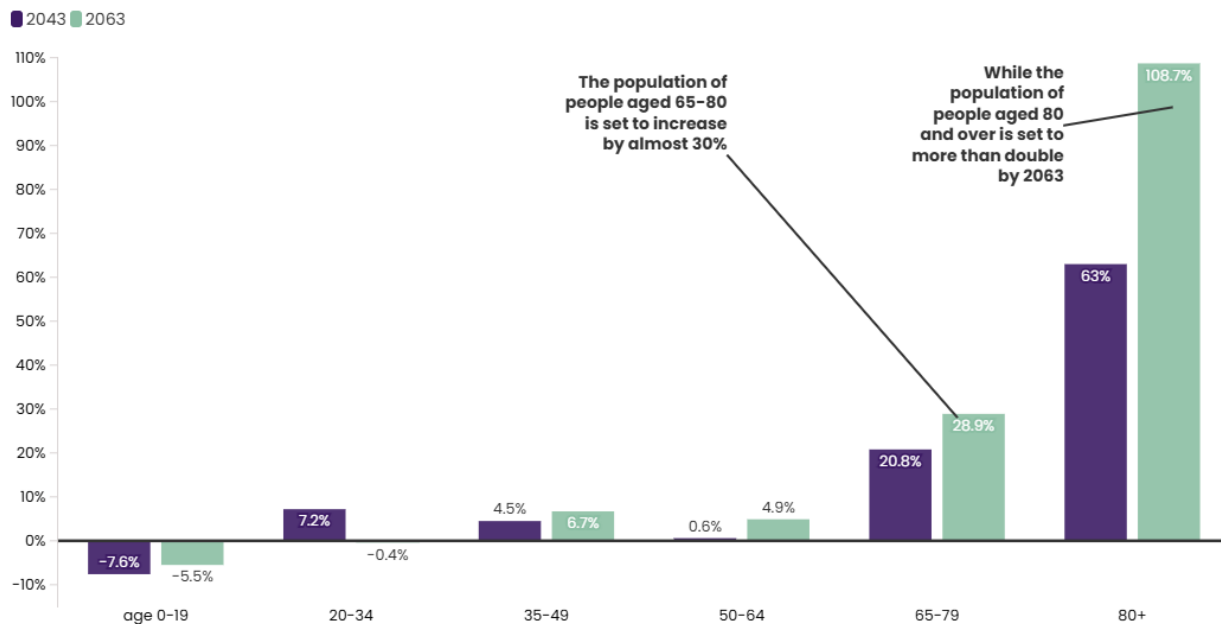
DID YOU KNOW?

International Day of Older people

On December 14, 1990, the United Nations General Assembly voted to establish 1st October as the International Day of Older People. The theme for 2024 is Ageing with Dignity: The Importance of Strengthening Care and Support Systems for Older Persons Worldwide. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/older-persons-day>

The number of people aged 65 years or older worldwide is projected to more than double, rising from 761 million in 2021 to 1.6 billion in 2050. The number of people aged 80 years or older is growing even faster. And here at home we see this prediction

2.02 Percentage change in the population by age, England, 2023 to 2043 and 2063



<https://ageing-better.org.uk/our-ageing-population-state-ageing-2023-4>

Quiz answers	
Colin Firth	Kristin Scott Thomas
Anthea Turner	Jonathan Ross
Bradley Walsh	Niamh Cusack
Gillian Anderson	Raphael Benitez
Mark Rylance	Nigella Lawson