

6FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the September issue of the newsletter. Once again I am delighted to see that there are lots of interesting activities taking place in the groups and the U3A as a whole. Members have just returned from their most recent trip to Ireland with glowing reports of the organisation, the scenery and the good weather they have had. We look forward to the photos and reports in the next newsletter. Elsewhere, many groups are busy planning events and activities after their summer break. The Photography group project has resulted in a very attractive calendar for 2018 showing a range of local pictures; this would make a great Christmas present for family and friends. Calendars will be available at the September meeting and are £6 each or you can buy two for £10.

Your Committee has organized two social events for the Autumn. The first of these is later this month; a repeat of the very successful wine tasting evening we did last year. There are still a few tickets available for this event. In November we have a musical event which promises to be a great evening – see page 2 for details of this. You can get your tickets for these at the monthly meeting. Events such as these take a lot of planning and organising and we hope you will support us in these events.

Our meeting in November is a bit different this year; the Current Affairs group will be hosting a 'Question Time' session. If you have interesting questions that you would like to have discussed please give these to the group leader, Margaret McDermott. On that afternoon, we also have the Chair of the High Lane Neighbourhood Forum coming to give us a brief update on neighbourhood issues.

Finally to pick up on the theme from the last issue of new groups – we have an offer from Ron Barrow to start a Trivial Pursuit group. There are more details of this on page 2. If you have ideas for new groups or are willing to help run a group please talk to our Groups co-ordinator, Doreen Scotte, at the monthly meeting. It can be very rewarding and isn't too time consuming. Don't be afraid to offer to help!

Diane Saxon



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FROM THE EDITOR

Items for the newsletter from members are always welcome so if you have any suggestions for content or articles of interest to U3A members please contact me at newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk

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

The next edition of the newsletter will be the November 2017 edition. Due to travel arrangements, the deadline for contributions will be 24 October.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

JULY MEETING

At this meeting, we were treated to a slice of life in Brunei as Norma Walmsley talked about her time as Governess to the children of the Sultan of Brunei, one of the richest men in the world. As an English speaking governess, she held a position of trust and honour. Birthday parties, outings, writing speeches and entertainment were all included in her duties. Accompanied by many lovely photographs, Norma gave us a glimpse into some of the many wonderful experiences, meetings, and trips that were a part of sharing the daily lives of the Royal children

AUGUST MEETING

Our talk this month was entitled 'Tax, care and Toy boys' and was presented by Chris Dingley. Chris talked us through the minefields of Powers of attorney, Inheritance tax planning, funeral plans and what type of wills we should have. There was much food for thought here and things to do as a result of what we heard.



MUSICAL EVENING 10 November

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

A hot meal will be available at the start of the evening. Tickets are on sale at the September and October meetings. Cost £10. Don't delay in getting yours; we expect demand to be high.



WINE TASTING EVENING

There are a just a few remaining tickets for this event. You can get yours at the September meeting or you can contact Paul Kenneth.

We will present a series of six different wines for you to taste. There will be three whites and three reds of varying styles to suit all tastes plus a selection of cheese and savoury biscuits.



TRIVIAL PURSUIT-A POSSIBLE NEW GROUP

Trivial Pursuit is a general knowledge question and answer board game. Some Canadians, finding parts of their scrabble game missing, invented their own. It was first released in 1981.

Players shake a die to determine the question category i.e. Geography, Entertainment, History, Arts & Literature, Science & Nature or Sports & Leisure. Correct answers enable players to collect a token. The winner is the first player (or team) to collect a token for each category and reach the central square of the board.



A note of caution, landing on a particular box is not as easy as it may seem and there will be much fun and hilarity in playing this very social team game. If it all seems like double Dutch, talk to your friends, you will definitely know someone who has played this entertaining game.

To get the group going, we need to get contact details for people who may be interested. We can then organise an inaugural meeting to determine when and where we play. Please come and talk to me at the monthly meeting or you can email me via BackgammonLeader@highlaneu3a.org.uk

Ron Barrow

FORTHCOMING TRAVEL EVENTS

Contact: Margaret McDermott or Ruth Smith

22-23 Sept	STAMFORD. 1 night HB at Park Inn By Radisson Peterborough. Visit to Calke Abbey and Georgian event in Stamford Information at September meeting.
23-27 Oct	BERLIN. Information and payment for minibus to Airport at October meeting.
15 Dec	EAST LANCS RAILWAY. Christmas Lunch. Cost £40. PAYMENT AT SEPTMEBER MEETING
Early 2018	DORSET. Details and deposit at October meeting

OUR U3A ACTIVITIES

13 Sept	Antiques, Auctions and TV: talk by Peter Ashburner
29 Sept	Wine Tasting evening. Cost £6. Tickets available at July and August meetings. Numbers limited. Members only.
11 Oct	Feeding Wild Birds: George Worthington
8 Nov	High Lane Neighbourhood Forum Question Time
10 Nov	Music evening. Cost £10. Tickets available at Sept and Oct meetings. Numbers limited. Members only.
20 Nov	Greater Manchester Network of U3As Quiz. Friends Meeting House, Manchester.
13 Dec	Christmas party My Life in Music: Rebecca Done. Eats, quiz and raffle. Members only. Tickets (£5) will be available at the November meeting.

HIGH LANE VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

16 Sept	Bridge and Afternoon tea. High Lane Village Hall. This event is now sold out.
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NATIONAL U3A EVENTS

16 Sept	Family History conference. Buxton. Cost £22
16 Oct	U3A at the RI. Royal Institution, London. Cost £21
26 Oct	Health and Well-being conference. Lancaster.
14 Nov	National Gallery Study day. London.

U3A DIARIES FOR 2018

U3A diaries for 2018 are available to order. This year the diary has a blue cover and costs £2.50 which includes postage.

If you would like to order one give your name and payment to Pam Curley at the September meeting.

U3A MAGAZINE: THIRD AGE MATTERS



The U3A magazine is published five times each year and contains articles and features of interest to U3A members, plus news and information from U3A head office and U3As across the country. The magazine will be delivered to your home for £2.50

(for all five editions). If you would like to receive the magazine, Give your name and the money to the Membership Secretary.

ADVANCE NOTICE - ST ANN'S HOSPICE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

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

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

U3A RESEARCH

Many U3As are involved in research covering a wide range of topics. You can read about many of these on the U3A research database at <http://u3aresearch.org.uk/grid>

As part of the Greater Manchester Network of U3As we are involved in a collaboration with Manchester University researchers aimed to establish areas of research that would be beneficial to both U3A members and researchers of the University. This research is hoped to include all faculties not only ageing or medical issues.

We are arranging a joint session with the researchers where we hope to agree the topics we wish to research and how the collaboration might work. Members of individual U3As will then have the opportunity to get involved. More details will be available later in the year.

STOCKPORT TOWN CENTRE ACCESS PLAN

The council is holding a series of events to allow people to have their say on the issue of improving access to the town centre. Events closest to High Lane are:

13 Sept Werneth School, Romiley 6pm – 8:30pm
16 Sept St Michael's Church Hall, Bramhall 10am - 12.30pm
25 Sept Hazel Grove Civic Hall 6pm – 8:30pm

These events are to enable the Council to present their plans for the next phase of Stockport's Town Centre Access Plan which is due to begin in the next few weeks. This includes a new link road linking Travis Brow with the A6 to create another route for motorists around the town centre. There is also a new bridge to be built across the River Mersey which will improve access for buses.

New public areas are to be created in the town centre and facilities for pedestrians improved. The Redrock development is due to open later this year with retail space and restaurants plus a 10-screen Light cinema and a multi-storey carpark.

STOCKPORT BEER WEEK

Beer-drinking members might be interested to know that Stockport CAMRA is running Stockport Beer Week again this year between 21 September and 1 October (I make that 11 days – Ed). There are all sorts of events including tours, walks, visits and a beer quiz. More details at <http://www.ssmcamra.co.uk/BeerWeek.htm>



IT CORNER

OFFLINE MAPPING

There are many mapping apps which work well when you are online but not so many that work well offline. Being offline avoids the very high charges when travelling. One app that works well is Maps.Me available from the AppStore or Googleplay. This is totally free to use. You need to download the maps before you go – do this via wifi as the maps can be quite large. Once loaded you can use your phone to drive or walk around foreign lands. The maps are very detailed and show restaurants, shops and sometimes even bus stops!



You can also see the traffic levels on main roads get directions to specific locations and have voice navigation to your destination.

A NEW TELEPHONE SCAM

You receive a call from someone claiming to be from BT who says that you have a virus on your computer or router that is damaging your computer. If you continue with the call they will ask you to go to your computer and follow their instructions. This is a scam.

BT has lots of information about scams at <https://www.btplc.com/inclusion/ProductsAndServices/Scams/index.htm> and Age UK has a useful booklet at http://www.ageuk.org.uk/Documents/EN-GB/Information-guides/AgeUKIG05_Avoiding_scams_inf.pdf?dtrk=rue

GROUP REPORTS

ART

After our five week summer break, we are raring to start again on the 7th Sept. If you fancy painting or drawing or chatting, come and join us; we are very friendly. Even if you have not done it for years. We meet on Thursday afternoon 1.30 till 4.0pm.

We have all the kit; you don't need to buy anything, just roll up.

Please call me for more information.

Brian Chadwick

BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 3 AND 4

26th July/3rd August:

We watched an absorbing documentary on Sergei Polunin. Born in Russia, he trained at The Royal Ballet School and became the Royal Ballet's youngest ever Principal Dancer. Now aged 27, he has found the pressure too much and has left The Royal Ballet to work on his own projects.

This was followed by a performance of Marguerite and Armand, featuring Polunin and Tamara Rojo.

23rd August / 7th September:

We saw a performance of Ivan The Terrible, with choreography by Yuri Grigorovich. This was danced by the Paris National Opera Ballet to their usual impeccable standard.

Next month I intend to show The Northern Ballet's production of A Simple Man. This is based on the life of L S Lowry. It depicts scenes from his paintings, bringing them to life and weaving them into his story.

There have been several people cancelling over the summer, so I have spaces available if anyone would like to try the group.

Meg Humphries.

BALLROOM DANCING

After a relaxed four months with one dance per month, the group returns to fortnightly with Sam and Irene leading off with the music and dancing on the first Friday in September.

We would always welcome any couples wishing to try out our friendly and relaxed mix of ballroom, Latin and sequence.

Walter Mason

Sam Chappell



CRAFT AND NEEDLEWORK

Our last meeting was in July, a mainly social affair but we should get down to more serious business when we next meet on 15th September to discuss our plans for the autumn.

Marlene Brookes

CURRENT AFFAIRS

July Meeting

Our group usually numbers about 7/8 but for various reasons this month we were down to 5. However, what we lacked in numbers was not reflected in the questions or the group discussions. The issues discussed included: -

Chris Evans is paid £2.2m per annum for just talking on the radio is this too much?

Discussion - Although he also does TV as well as radio we agreed "yes" these sorts of payments are too high. Comparisons were made with other high paid celebrities such as footballers. There is a difference, they are paid with private money. BBC pays with public money. The influence of agents acting for celebs also plays a part, good agents will negotiate better contracts.

The BBC pays females much less than males for the same job. This cannot be correct, can it? We agreed "no" such unfair practices are not acceptable and although the BBC promises to stamp out this unequal state of affairs within a given time seeing is believing and the pressure must be kept up to ensure equal pay for equal work does happen.

Is it time to change the law in Britain and allow euthanasia - the right to die at a time and place of one's own choosing thus removing the need to travel to Switzerland? Discussion on this indicated the answer is not clear cut. Whilst it might be desirable to have one's own destiny in your own hands, who will administer the treatment? The medical world is driven by the "Hippocratic Oath" dedicated to promote life not end it. To allow other non-medical individuals to end life opens the door to crime and murder and that also is not desirable. However, if the quality of life is so bad who would deny the right to end it. On balance, we thought the current situation is best so we agreed the law should remain unchanged

A British couple in Berkshire of Indian descent have been turned down for the adoption of a British (white) baby on grounds of colour. Is this acceptable? The dilemma is to do the best for the child and we thought that the decision from Berkshire would be different in different parts of Britain and the 'no' in Berkshire would be 'yes' in some northern towns. Also the question of different cultures and customs comes into the decision. We did not have any more information on this subject so we left the question open.

Can a two year Brexit work without a further transitional period above the initial two years?

We agreed 'no' two years will not be sufficient time to ensure a successful divorce from the EU and a further transitional period will be needed. Say two years or even more because it will be many more than two years, could be up to ten years before the separation is complete.

So at the end of our deliberations as we do at every meeting we all enjoyed some delicious fairy cakes, biscuits with tea or coffee all provided by our group leader and host, Margaret McDermott.

Trevor Kinvig

August meeting

Britain spends £12 billion a year on foreign aid. Is it time to come out of this arrangement and improve life for the needy in this country? We felt that it was given for trade purposes and that the money was not used for the poor people in the countries it went to. We think the aid should not be stopped, but it should be better organised and not misspent. Perhaps give it to these countries via charities.

Statues, riots in USA because certain communities want to remove a statue of Robert E Lee and other confederates. We feel that statues of whoever should be left intact as it is part of history and we cannot change it.

Jacob Reese Mogg and his defence for austerity has made him more popular with some people, we think he is very entertaining. He has six children his latest child is named Sixtus! Should we all go back to school and learn Latin? He is a very wealthy man and has nothing to fear from austerity, he needs to live in the real world.

Has the issue to build 4000 houses in High Lane gone away? We think not it will happen sometime in the future.

Criticism came from Sir Roy Strong that the National Trust is becoming part of the entertainment industry. We feel that the National Trust do a good job and should be allowed to raise money as and when they can, as long as it is legal. You don't have to like it.

Sarah Champion Labour MP resigned because of an article she put in the Sun newspaper saying Britain has a problem with Pakistani men raping white girls. Was she right to resign? and what about freedom of speech. We feel that she should not have resigned.

Is Stephen Hawkins right to be worried that the NHS is moving towards a U,S. style insurance system for health? There appears to be creeping privatisation going on, we think he is right, do you?

We have acquired a new aircraft carrier at a cost of £20 billion but no aeroplanes. Theresa May announced that it was a clear signal of UK global power and that Britain forges a new positive confident roll on the world's stage. Is this true? if only we could ask her. We think that Britain is no longer a world power and no longer rules the waves.

Why is there a fashion these days for men to grow beards or facial hair in peculiar styles? is the women's lib movement to blame, or is it a status symbol of men to show their masculinity? Who cares!!

June Gibbs

IMPORTANT - At the U3A meeting in November the Current Affairs Group will stage 'U3A Question Time' Similar to the BBC programme of the same name. The panel will be made from members of the current affairs group and we will answer and comment on questions from the audience. **WE NEED YOUR QUESTIONS!** Please send questions by the end of the October U3A meeting to Diane Saxon or Margaret McDermott. Thank you.

DINING GROUP

What a delightful venue the new restaurant at the Brookside garden centre is. It is light and airy with lots of windows and an attractive outside eating area from where one can wave to passengers on the little train as it tootles past.

This was the choice for the dining groups August lunch. Thirty four dined and had a very enjoyable time. There were a few problems, but as they only opened this year and probably not had to deal with such a large party as ours we forgave them. The staff who served us were so pleasant and couldn't do enough to please us that all the problems were simply laughed away. All in all another enjoyable lunch and afternoon out.

Our next lunch will be on October 24th and we are returning to The Kingfisher in Poynton. We were there last year and it was very popular so we are expecting a good response. We will be taking names at the September meeting. New members are always welcome

Jeanette Bell
Dorothy Neillands

GARDENING

Visits to Deidre's and Janet's very different gardens took pride of place in July/August.

Deidre's garden is perched high above Disley, with extensive views; yet well sheltered on 3 sides. Superb specimen rose varieties, a thriving grandchild's mini-garden, and flowerful clematis caught the eye.



Janet's, by contrast fell steeply away on terraces above Torkington Brook, Hazel Grove with thriving acers, magnolia, and lacecap hydrangeas, and many healthy potted plants. A sculptural pillar was a striking feature, as well as an attractive twin bird ornament.

Walter Mason

RHS – SOME JOBS FOR SEPTEMBER

Divide herbaceous perennials
Dig up remaining potatoes before slug damage spoils them
Start to reduce the frequency of houseplant watering

GERMAN

We had our last meeting of the summer on the last Friday of July before our August break with a surprise attendance of nine members. We heard about a trip to Nuremberg and enjoyed some biscuits from the region. Nuremberg seems to be a popular choice for travellers in the group this year and it can certainly be recommended for the variety of experiences it affords.

We next meet up on the 8th September when we shall, no doubt, discuss the events of the summer which, in my case, meant several visits to the vet, so Sandi's treatment will give us an opportunity to learn some veterinary medical vocabulary. We look forward to a trip to the Plaza in Stockport in November, organised by Barry Meakin, to an evening of standup comedy (mainly in English) by the German comedian, Henning Wehn.

Marlene Brookes

HISTORY

The group watched a very interesting programme about Thomas Coram, the founder of the Foundling Hospital in London. Having returned to London in 1720 after a career at sea, he was shocked at how many babies, were being left to die on doorsteps or by the river, because the mother was so poor they were unable to care for them. Consequently, he began a campaign to create a home for these babies, overcoming widespread prejudice about children born outside of marriage, by enlisting the support of leading members of the aristocracy, the City, the arts and the sciences through a series of petitions.

Early supporters of the captain's endeavours included the composer George Frideric Handel, the artist William Hogarth and author Charles Dickens.

However, having set up the hospital, by the 1740s it was struggling financially to keep pace with the demand for places. During this decade Handel had also fallen out of favour and so in 1750 he suggested that he could give a concert of the Messiah as a fund raising event for the hospital. It was a great success and brought renewed fame for Handel, a considerable amount of money for the hospital along with a regeneration of public support and interest. The foundling hospital continued until 1954. As you can probably imagine, this created a great deal of discussion within the group.

The next meeting will be on 20 September, 7.30 when Irene Taylor will present a topic on Piaget.

Pam Curley

MUSIC APPRECIATION

The Music Appreciation Group meets monthly on Monday morning from 10 am till 12 noon. In August, we listened to a varied mix of composers, styles and instruments. We began with Bach's 5th Brandenburg concerto, then Brahms's first piano concerto and ended with a song recital given by Dame Janet Baker.

The next meeting will be on 18th September. Anyone is welcome. Please contact me for details.

Sue Dintinger

OPERA APPRECIATION

11th / 25th July.

We continued our season from the New York Metropolitan Opera with a performance of Madama Butterfly. This was a beautifully designed and very colourful production, which used Japanese-style puppetry to great effect.

8th / 22nd August.

We saw another Metropolitan Opera production. This was Bellini's I Puritani, which features some stunning music in the bel canto style. Recorded in 2007, the whole cast sang and acted superbly. Anna Netrebko was sensational in the very beautiful and difficult role of Elvira.

For the next meeting, I intend to continue our Metropolitan Opera season, with a performance of Carmen. If anyone would like to try an opera, this might be a good one to start with. Please contact me if you are interested.

Meg Humphries

PHOTOGRAPHY

The July competition "Churches" was won by Diane (St Stephen's church in Vienna), with Walter second (Chadkirk), and Derek third (Edale church).



But most of our efforts went into selecting pictures and producing the 2018 calendar. The calendar is now printed and will be on sale at the September and subsequent meetings. We hope you will like it! If you can't get to the meeting and would like to order or buy a calendar, please contact me.

Our next meeting is in September and the competition subject is Harvest. New members are welcome.

Walter Mason

QUIZ GROUP

The group meets again in September after a short summer break. We look forward to once again grappling with our defective memories. Here are a few questions for you to be going on with

- Which hurricane battered Houston last week?
- Who is Britain's Brexit team leader? And the EU's?
- Where is your philtrum?
- What is orzo?
- Which emperor built the Terracotta warriors?
- Which breed of dog was used to herd cattle?

Diane Saxon

SINGING

New members are welcome. We meet at 10am each Friday morning in the small hall. We normally sing in 4 part harmony so some musical knowledge would be helpful and a love of singing essential.

Our next performance is at Dystlegh Grange. We list below the Programme to give some idea of the type of music we sing.

YOU RAISE ME UP Arranged by Roger Emerson
ANGELS THROUGH THE NIGHT Philip Kern
THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD Howard Goodall
FIELDS OF GOLD G M Sumner
AND SO IT GOES Billy Joel arr. Bob Chilcott
ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL John Rutter
FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH John Rutter
LULLABY, GOODNIGHT MY ANGEL Billy Joel / MacHuff
RED RED ROSE James Mulholland
AVE VERUM Mozart arr. Alexander Lestrangle
JERUSALEM Parry arr. Patrick Gazard

If you would like a small musical treat, just listen to 'Lullaby, Goodnight my Angel' or 'And so it goes' on Youtube.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact me for details.

Margaret Glynn

WALKING

Timbersbrook and The Cloud Tuesday August 8th

Eight of us met at the Timbersbrook picnic area car park, the site of the former Silver Springs Bleaching and Dyeing Company Works, now a popular recreation area, for a six mile walk. The first two and a half miles took us across field paths and a short stretch along the canal. Despite the recent heavy rain we didn't encounter too much mud. We then made the steady and relatively easy climb to the summit of The Cloud. Lunch was taken sitting round the trig point admiring the views and identifying local landmarks.



The descent was much shorter, down some relatively steep steps. We then passed the Cloudside shooting Club and continued along the road, making a brief detour to examine the Neolithic burial chamber known as the Bridestones. The Bridestones was once an incredible monument, perhaps unique in England, but ransacking on a massive scale in 1764 to build a turnpike road and then later the nearby house and farm and subsequent removals has left it much depleted.

Continuing along the road we entered a field through a very dilapidated gate and stile and on leaving this field we had an electrifying moment where the local farmer had blocked the official path with an electrified fence. However we all survived and soon came out at the Timbersbrook crossroads where the red telephone box caused much interest as it now houses a lending library and acts as the community notice board.

There was a light drizzle for much of the walk but this did not seem to dampen anyone's spirits as we safely returned to the cars.

Louanne Collins



Wednesday 30 August 2017



David Burke led a group of sixteen from Ford Hall near Chapel-en-le-Frith on a 7.5 mile hike through contrasting landscapes from a mellow wooded valley steeped in history to high level heather and peat moorland.

We left the hamlet of Ford via Peat Lane, a former coach road, to start a steady climb through woodland leading to open farmland, which gave access to an ancient bridleway along Tom Moor, which we followed to the western flank of Rushup Edge, before turning northward

to gain higher ground and a vast expanse of open moorland where we proceeded for 1.5 miles along a path, recently paved with large stone slabs by the National Trust, which facilitates all weather access to the boggy wild plateau. Here we had a close encounter with friendly Wheatear, a most attractive bird, a summer visitor. Alas we had no luck in seeing a merlin, the smallest of our resident Falcons, which proved allusive (much to Carol Traffon's disappointment!).

Towards the end of the stone path we reach the Trig. point at the summit of Brown Knoll, one of the highest hills in the Peak District (1867ft), which lies at the westerly end of the Edale valley and 2 miles South-Southwest of the Peak District's highest point, Kinder Scout (2087ft). Our cresting of Brown Knoll was unkindly rewarded with a quick wet squall passing through, so we have no triumphant photograph!

On leaving the summit we headed West towards South Head and found shelter from the cool breeze against a drystone wall, where we stopped for our picnic lunch. Our onward route reacquainted us with another section of the bridleway we had used earlier, leaving it finally to descend to Shireoaks Farm, enjoying the improved weather conditions and splendid views of the valley in its late summer glory, leading to a very steep descent to Malcoff, from where we walked along the single track picturesque lane back to the Ford, where Steve Reynolds on behalf of all present, thanked David for organising the walk.

David Burke