

FROM THE CHAIR

Margaret and Sue have led our U3A for the last four years and it has been safe in their hands. Membership has increased year on year to over 450 members in 2016; most of whom have renewed their membership for 2017. During those four years, we have welcomed new members and new groups and have organised some new social events as well as continuing with our familiar ones.

It is with some trepidation that I take on this new role although I know I won't lack for support from Paul and the other Officers, Committee members and Group Leaders. The interest groups are the life blood of the U3A and our Group Leaders are key in enabling us to offer a varied set of interest groups. With a membership not far from 500 members we need to increase the number of groups so that all members are able to find something that interests them. Inevitably some groups have a limited shelf life so we should aim to start a few new groups each year.

We will analyse your suggestions made on the renewal forms and try and set up groups to match. However to do this, we need people willing to take on the role of leading/co-ordinating a group. This can be a shared role; several of our groups already operate very successfully in this way. A group can get started with around five or six initial members and build up over its first few months.

Please get in touch with a committee member or group leader if you have any suggestions which you think would help to develop our activities.

Best wishes
Diane Saxon

SPRING?



In spite of the recent snow, it is good to see some signs of Spring.

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NEW EDITOR REQUIRED!

Over our sixteen years we have had several newsletter editors and editorial partnerships; we have all had a different format and style – and that's as it should be, as it brings a new approach and new ideas. My first newsletter was March 2013 – how time flies! – so now we need someone(s) to volunteer to take the newsletter forward.

It doesn't take very long to put it together and group leaders don't need much prompting to send in their reports. Editing the newsletter is a very good way of finding out what goes on in our U3A and the newsletter editor is welcome to attend Committee meetings. Please think about whether you would like to take on this role and contact me at newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk

The next edition of the newsletter will be the May 2017 edition. The deadline for contributions will be 29 April.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

JANUARY MEETING

Naomi Lewis from Salford Museum gave a very interesting talk about the history of Worsley and the visit of Queen Victoria in 1851. The Royal Visit to Worsley was the first to the Manchester area for 150 years. She was the guest of Lord Egerton, Earl of Ellesmere who lived at Worsley New Hall.

Arriving by train at Patricroft Station, the Queen and her party travelled to the New Hall via the Bridgewater Canal. In preparation for her arrival, the water in the canal was dyed blue and the Earl of Ellesmere commissioned a Royal Barge and built a landing stage on the banks.



<http://www.salford.ac.uk/library/archives-and-special-collections/worsley/history>

The Ellesmere Polka was composed by Heinrich Blumer to commemorate the occasion of the Queen's visit.

Worsley New Hall was used for various purposes in the war years but fell into disrepair and after a fire it was demolished in 1949. The site has recently been excavated and the ruins can be seen.

The RHS is creating a new 63 hectare (156 acre) garden by bringing back to life the lost historic grounds at Worsley New Hall in Salford. The gardens are due to open in 2019.

AGM

The AGM was, as usual, very well attended with over 130 members present. The Secretary, Pam Curley, read the minutes of the previous meeting which were accepted as a true record of the meeting. This was followed by reports from the Chair and the Treasurer and the Election of Officers for 2017.

The minutes of the meeting are available on the website. We then enjoyed some entertaining reports from the Group Leaders.

The other important aspect of this meeting was renewing your membership. If you have not yet done so there is a membership form and instructions on the website.

2017 COMMITTEE

Following the nominations for Officers and Committee members at the AGM the committee for 2017 is

- Chair: Diane Saxon
- Vice chair: Paul Kenneth
- Treasurer: Les Birks
- Secretary: Pam Curley
- Membership Secretary: Margaret McDermott

Committee Members: Pam Andrew, Maureen Christian, Linda Dale, Sue Harlin, Sheila Harrop, Barbara Kenneth, Trevor Kinvig, Andre Lister, Margaret McDermott, Doreen Scotte.

We welcome two new committee members, Doreen and Linda and hope they will enjoy their time with us.

The updated Committee, Speakers and Groups list will be mailed with this edition of the newsletter and printed copies will be available at the March meeting. This is also available on the website without contact details.

U3A MAGAZINE: THIRD AGE MATTERS



It's not too late to order your copies of the U3A magazine. This 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). Give your name and the money to the Membership Secretary.

GROUP LEADERS/COORDINATORS - PLEASE NOTE

There are some useful documents for group coordinators on the website including the handbook 'More Time to Learn'. You can download a copy of this for your use. To find these documents. click on the Group Leaders link at the bottom right of the Group page.

National U3A Office also produces 'Sources' booklets for subject areas and there is a subject advisor available to help with specific interest groups. Some subject advisors produce newsletter for their interest groups. There are currently 59 Sources booklets covering a wide range of interest groups.



Sources booklets can be downloaded from the National Office website <http://www.u3a.org.uk/sources.html> where you will also find contact details of the subject advisors.

CELEBRATION OF 1,000 U3AS

The 1,000th U3A in the UK was formed during 2016.



To celebrate this milestone there was a Celebration event in November 2016 attended by Baroness d'Souza, former Speaker of the House of Lords. Recordings of the event are now available to view on YouTube. Click the image to be directed there.

ART FUND OFFERS FOR U3A MEMBERS

U3A Members can now purchase a 3-month National Art Pass for just £10. With a National Art Pass you can enjoy a range of exciting benefits: free entry to over 240 museums, galleries and historic houses plus a discount in a number of museum shops and cafes - ideal for a spot of tea. Visit www.artfund.org/u3a for more information. You have until 20th March 2017 to take advantage of this offer.

GREATER MANCHESTER NETWORK OF U3AS LITERATURE DAY

High Lane U3A is a member of the Greater Manchester Network. The network has organised a Literature day on Monday 27 March from 10:30am to 4pm at Cross St Chapel, Manchester. The cost is just £5. There are various talks and sessions taking place including the Art of self-publishing, the Poems of Raymond Carver, Russian literature and much more.

You can find more details and an application form on our website or on the Network website at <https://u3asites.org.uk/files/g/gm-network/docs/litdayform170327.pdf>

FUNDRAISING CONCERT AT THE VILLAGE HALL

High Lane Village Hall

Stockport Male Voice Choir
In Concert on
FRIDAY 17th March
7-30pm

Bring your friends and your own drinks

Ticket price (including Tea & Biscuits) £6 each

Contact Linda Morton on 01663 762150
linda.morton@hlvh.uk

VILLAGE HALL AGM

All Residents of High Lane and District and regular users of the Village Hall are cordially invited by the Management Committee to the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** to be held at 8.00pm on 11th April 2017 In the Village Hall. Please come along and support your Village Hall.

Any nominations for membership of the Management Committee are requested to notify the Secretary Mrs J A Armstrong

SCAM WARNING: PHONE MESSAGE THREATENS HMRC LAWSUIT

This scam seems to be targeting older people. We have heard of some of our members receiving this phone call so be on your guard. Put the phone down and do not respond to the message. If you cannot verify the identity of the person making the call you should not disclose your personal details.

The call is a recorded message which purports to be from HMRC and states that HMRC is bringing a lawsuit against the individual. The recipient is asked to phone a number and press "1" to speak to the officer dealing with the case.

You should report any such incidents on the Action Fraud website, or you can call them on 0300 123 2040 To learn more about dealing with phishing and scams visit www.gov.uk

NUTS!



A recent research analysis study carried out by Imperial College has found that people who eat at least 20g of nuts a day have a lower risk of heart disease, cancer and other diseases.

The analysis of all current studies on nut consumption and disease risk has revealed that 20g a day -- equivalent to a handful -- can cut people's risk of coronary heart disease by nearly 30 percent, their risk of cancer by 15 percent, and their risk of premature death by 22 percent.

An average of at least 20g of nut consumption was also associated with a reduced risk of dying from respiratory disease by about a half, and diabetes by nearly 40 percent, although the researchers note that there is less data about these diseases in relation to nut consumption.

The study, led by researchers from Imperial College London and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, is published in the journal *BMC Medicine*.

LEARN SOMETHING NEW IN 2017

The choice of subjects we can study for free online is amazing and ever expanding. FutureLearn has many new courses starting in March including:

- Shakespeare
- Introduction to Dutch
- Rome: A virtual tour of the old city
- Investment
- Internet of things

And many many more!

You will need to register for the course(s) by clicking the Join link on the relevant web page.

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses>

TRADESPERSONS

This list is only available in the printer and emailed versions.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

OUR U3A ACTIVITIES

6 March	High Lane U3A Lunch. Hazel Grove Golf Club.
8 March	Gardens through the Year: Walter Mason
12 April	The Mellor Dig: Anne Hearle
25 April	Royal Exchange, Twelfth Night Ticket £26.50 (no coach) Closing date 25 March 2017
21 June	Bolton Octagon, Alan Bennett 'Talking Heads', ticket only £15, with coach £23.

FORTHCOMING HOLIDAYS AND VISITS

Contact: Margaret McDermott or Ruth Smith

22 April	CARTMEL and HOLKER HALL £22
17-22 May	CORNWALL. FULL There is a waiting list.
20 June	CLAYTON HALL £4
14-28 July	CRUISE. British Isles from Southampton on P&O Adonia
28 Aug–1 Sept	IRELAND. FULL. There is a waiting list. Balance due at JUNE meeting.
22-23 Sept	STAMFORD £99
23-27 Oct	BERLIN. Flight from Manchester. HB in hotel. Further details later.

Note that the holiday to YORKSHIRE in July has been cancelled because of lack of support.

NATIONAL U3A EVENTS

27 March	Literature Day organised by Greater Manchester Network of U3As of which we are a member. Cross St Chapel, Manchester. Cost £5. Details and booking form on our website.
31 March	Energy conference. Penrith.
11 April	“Search for life in the universe”. Birkbeck University.
7 June	North West U3A conference and AGM. Manchester
29 Aug-1 Sept	Summer School. Newton Rigg College, Penrith.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

26 Feb-26 Mar	Bird Photography by Bill Kendrick. Bollington Arts Centre
4 March	Lyme Run. 9am at the Park
4 March	World Book Day. Quarry Bank Mill
5 March	Afternoon tea at Stockport Plaza. 4pm. Must book.
5 March	Celebrate Sinatra. Bridgewater Hall
8-11 March	Salt of the earth. Brookdale theatre
8 March and 11 March	Hansel and Gretel. Opera North. Lowry theatre
9 March	NLive Hedda Gabler. Various venues
9 March and 11 March	Cinderella. Opera North
10 March	Spring bird walk. Hare Hill garden
10 March–1 April	The Suppliant Women. Royal Exchange Theatre.
12 March	Archery day. Rufford Old hall
18 March	Lion. Stockport Plaza. Matinee and evening
21-25 March	9 to 5. Romiley Operatic Society. Stockport Plaza.
22-23 March	North Cheshire Photographic society exhibition. Poynton Civic Hall.
25 March	Pemberley Walk. Lyme Park
31 March	Quiz Night in aid of East Cheshire Hospice. Poynton Royal British Legion Club.
1 April	Birds and habitats. Guided walk. Dunham Massey
1 April	Hazel Grove Orchestra concert. Methodist church.
1 April	Jackie. Stockport Plaza. Matinee and evening`
2 April	Plant Hunter’s Fair. Bramhall Hall
6 April	NLive. Twelfth Night. Various venues.
13 Apr- 20 May	Twelfth Night. Royal Exchange Theatre.
25 March-30 July	Embroidery and landscapes of Tatton park. Tatton park.
25 April	NLive. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are dead. Various venues.
27 April	RSC Encore. Julius Caesar. Various venues.
23 April	Bluebell Walk. Combermere Abbey.

GROUP REPORTS

BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 1 AND 2

January Meeting

Our January meeting was a mixed bag of extracts danced mainly by the American Ballet Theatre.

“Airs” - Music - Handel

“The Lilac Garden” - Music - Ernest Chausson

“The Black Swan” - “Grand Pas de deux” from Act 3 - Swan Lake - Music Tchaikovsky

“Romeo & Juliet” - Balcony Pas de deux from Act 1 - Music - Prokofiev

“Great Galloping Gottschalk” - Music - Louis Moreau

February Meeting

Our February meeting comprised a ballet based on a Shakespeare comedy and a documentary on the life of one of the Royal Ballet Company’s best loved ballerinas.

“A Midsummer Night’s Dream” - Featuring: Pacific Northwest Ballet Co. - Music Mendelssohn

“A Ballerina’s Life” - Featuring: Darcy Bussell

Sheila Hall

BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 3 AND 4

25th Jan / 2nd Feb

We saw a performance by the Royal Ballet of two pieces choreographed by Frederick Ashton: **The Two Pigeons** and **Rhapsody**. Recorded in early 2016, neither of these ballets had been in the company’s repertory for thirty years.

The Two Pigeons is a very colourful piece, featuring lively dancing by a troupe of gypsies, a beautiful pas de deux, and two very well-trained pigeons.

Rhapsody was premiered in 1980 as a tribute to the Queen Mother, on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Set to Rachmaninov’s Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, it features exceptional speed and brilliance of footwork.

22nd Feb / 2nd March

We watched the Paris National Opera Ballet in their 2015 production of **L’Histoire de Manon**. With glorious music by Massenet, this is a stunning performance of one of my favourite ballets.

At our next meeting I intend to show a gala performance of ballet extracts from La Scala, Milan.

Meg Humphries

CINEMA

The first film we saw was "La La Land". Although a pleasant entertaining film we failed to see what all the hype was about. It left us feeling "underwhelmed".

This was not the case with "A United Kingdom" which was excellent. As was "Lion".

If you missed these films do watch out for them, they will not disappoint.

Sheila Harrop

CRAFT AND NEEDLEWORK

Some of us had a break from our creativity over the Christmas holiday whereas others had continued to keep busy so we were able to send off another parcel of items ranging from scarves and hats to jumpers to the charity, Knit for Peace.

We next meet in The Crown in Hawk Green on 30th March when we will have our annual lunch.



Marlene Brookes

CURRENT AFFAIRS

We met once again with diminished numbers but settled down to discuss some items from the news.

We began with an item on should P.E. be compulsory in schools. In view of all the talk about obese children, was it time to have regular lessons. In our days it was. After a lot of reminiscence on our part we decided it should be brought back.

The next item considered whether young sportspeople were receiving knighthoods too soon. O.B.E. & M.B.E. were better in our opinion; knighthoods were for later in life.

The third topic was the proposal to pay more Council Tax to provide better social care for older people. We all agreed it was acceptable provided it was ring fenced. It also should be a reasonable amount; Westminster council is suggesting 15% which we thought was too high.

We looked briefly at various other topics including wearing high heels at work; should Doctors be paid extra for out of hour calls (we thought not); can we have a good relationship with Donald Trump? (the jury is out).

And finally a Facebook report of the reading of the Koran in Glasgow and Gloucester cathedral. We have not yet heard of the Bible being read in Mosques but perhaps this could bring people together.

Amy Summers

DANCING

Ballroom Dancing

Sam and Walter shared the dance programmes in January and February, with several good turnouts. A mix of ballroom, latin and sequence is proving popular.

Occasionally we try our hand at pasadoble and argentine tango, but usually the quieter dances are favourite, in one of which Steve and Ann gave a good display of ballroom style.



Sequence Dancing, "Notes from The Front"

Battle commences fortnightly at the Reading Room, when all the usual rules of engagement are routinely trampled underfoot.

- › The leaders should never try to interrupt conversation by forcing dancing on the group, but they do, by turning the music volume up, so that speech is inaudible.
- › The leaders should never expect the group to remember anything previously taught and therefore will be unspeakably thrilled and delighted if they do!
- › The leaders should never imagine that the "which foot do we start with" conundrum is easily overcome, but they have an insane compulsion to keep trying!
- › The leaders must never concede that the tea break is the main event of the afternoon, and must continue to inflict maximum "brain overload" on the group despite all protest.
- › However, the leaders are allowed to bask in the reflected glory, when, despite all the odds, everyone is dancing round looking confident and for all the world like "Proper Dancers".
- › And the leaders are allowed, at the end of the session, to go home and lie in a darkened room, or quaff large quantities of G and T!

The leaders are also allowed to look forward to the next encounter, and to hope that the group enjoy it all as much as they do!!!!

Kate and Ian

DINING

Welcome to 2017 and another great year ahead for the Dining Group. We have an exciting selection of venues ahead offering a selection of dishes which we hope will whet your appetite.

We started the year with a visit to The Midway on Newbridge Lane in the heart of Stockport. This proved a popular choice as many of our members knew it very well. Thirty -four names on the list and everyone enjoyed a delicious meal with excellent service.

Our next lunch, which will be in April is at The John Millington in Cheadle Hulme and as usual names will be taken at the March meeting.

Please remember these lunches are open to any members of High Lane U3A and are a very pleasant and sociable setting to meet new people.

Jeanette Bell
Dorothy Neillands

GARDENING

Ten gardeners gathered at the Deanwater Hotel for the annual meal.

The first meeting of 2017 is the March meeting at Walter's house, when some simple flower arranging is on the agenda.

Walter Mason



GERMAN

This lively, motivated group continues to meet every Friday. As usual we have heard interesting accounts of holidays in exotic locations and sampled some of the local food.

Taking a rest from depressing items on the political scene we have recently discovered enlightening articles on various jobs including hairdressers, estate agents and vets. It is interesting to note how they differ in training and remuneration from similar jobs in the UK.

Combining both the political and the professional was an interview we read with Germany's First Lady, Daniela Schadt, a very down to earth journalist of whom none of us had heard. She and her partner fulfil the roles of heads of state. It was interesting to note that her view of people had become more positive. As a journalist she was always investigating what had gone wrong but as head of state she was able to see the good done by so many members of the community.

Marlene Brookes

HANDBELL RINGING

A few intrepid individuals have made an initial foray into the world of handbell ringing, aided and abetted by several who have been there before!

Our main problem is finding a suitable time when everyone is free. We think an eight-day week is the only answer!

However, after only two sessions, there are already signs of progress (hooray!) but the Bridgewater Hall may be some way into the distant future! Our audience consisted of my dog Rolfe, and as he did not cover his ears with his paws, we took that as a sign of encouragement! We shall continue, with session timings being variable for now.

We currently have sufficient ringers but please contact me if you are interested in this group.

Kate Hellar

HISTORY

Jacobites in Stockport 18th January 2017

It came as a surprise to some of us to hear that the Jacobites were in Stockport, but Kevin Dranfield, our guest speaker from the local heritage group, was happy to tell us all about it.

In 1745 the Young Pretender or Bonnie Prince Charlie, landed in Scotland from France with the intention of capturing the British throne. He came with only two boats but had soon raised an army of over 1,000 men from sympathisers in the Highlands.



He carried on to Edinburgh which offered little resistance. He held court in Holyrood for a few days and his army swelled to 2,500 men. England was next. The city of Carlisle surrendered to the army, who then marched over Shap arriving in Preston three days later. The government in London had to stop the march of the insurgents at all costs. They despatched several battalions up to the north marching in a pincer movement. They were well trained and equipped and led by experienced officers. Stockport was seen as a strategic location with the River Mersey as a barrier: Lancashire Bridge was demolished together with smaller ones in the town.

Bonnie Prince Charlie's army carried on to Wigan and thence to Manchester, a city faithful to the Jacobite cause. On reaching Stockport they merely erected temporary bridges: they also forded the Mersey higher up where it was shallower and Bonnie Prince Charlie led his men on foot, across the ford, up to his waist in water.

The town was too small to accommodate such a large company, so the rebels marched on to quarters in Lyme Park: the townsfolk must have been glad to see the back of them. At St Mary's Church they took the precaution of burying the altar silver in the churchyard just in case.

The rebels carried on through Macclesfield and to Derby. However, it was becoming obvious that it was a hopeless cause. They were heavily outnumbered and outclassed so the order was given to retreat. Again they visited Stockport but this time Bonnie Prince Charlie was given accommodation in a building near St Mary's Church. Sadly, the house has long since gone and there is no blue plaque.

Pam Curley

MUSIC APPRECIATION

We had a very interesting recital of music by many different composers yesterday. Thank you, Jackie!

There will be no meeting in March. The next meeting will be on 10th April to avoid Easter.

Sue Dintinger

OPERA APPRECIATION

10th/24th January

We began the year with a very amusing performance of Donizetti's *La Fille du Regiment*, from the Royal Opera. Noted for its demanding tenor role, this production featured an interesting contribution from Dawn French as the Duchess of Crackentorp, (a role which did not require her to sing !)

14th/28th February

Staying with the Royal Opera, we watched a performance from 2011 of Verdi's Macbeth. Not very cheery, but a most striking performance.

For the next meeting, I intend to show a one-act opera by Puccini – Suor Angelica. Also planned is an introduction to an early opera: Ercole Amante (Hercules in Love) by Cavalli.

Meg Humphries

PHOTOGRAPHY

February was the first meeting of 2017, when Diane and Walter shared first place in a competition for "Christmas" and "Festive" images. We discussed possible projects for 2017 and shared information about some local photographic exhibitions that are taking place over the next few weeks.



With reduced numbers we will only meet every other month this year. The topic for our March meeting is 'Moonlight'.

The group needs new members so if you are interested in joining this group please contact me.

Walter Mason



QUIZ GROUP

We continue to meet monthly on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Our February meeting was set and hosted by Meg. Rounds on Music, Geography, Science, Arts and Books and General Knowledge caused much brain searching, hoping to retrieve the names of the seven hills of Rome, the colour of the live wire in a 3 pin plug, the name of Beethoven's only opera and 'who had a little list' among many others. We finished with a list of anagrams to unscramble into the names of birds. The long tailed tit proved elusive.



Good fun and lots of learning – if only we could remember what we learn!

Please contact me for details if you are interested in this group.

Diane Saxon

SMILE CORNER

Helicopters are cleverer than planes. Not only can they fly through the air they can also hover.

If it is less than 90 degrees it is a cute angel.

READING

The Reading Group has not met for several months and some of us are missing our monthly discussion of books we have read. I have not been able to get a group of more than one or two people together at the monthly meetings so I suggest that those interested in restarting the group meet at my house at 10 am on Wednesday, 15th March when we can discuss the form we want our meetings to take, what types of books we want to read, the day that suits most people and the venue.

If you plan to attend this meeting would you please let me know. You can phone me or contact me by email. Contact details are available on the Group contacts list.

Marlene Brookes

SINGING

The Singing Group has resumed after a short break. We meet each Friday at 10am in High Lane village Hall.

We have spent time since Christmas learning new music including works by John Rutter, Bob Chilcott plus the German American Folk Artist Billy Joel.

To bring us back down to earth we are learning two songs from Sweet Charity which was recently performed in Manchester and was our very first venture into Show Music.

If you are interested in joining the choir, please phone Margaret or Tony on 01663 762386

Tony and Margaret Glynn

WALKING

Tuesday walk Jan 10th 2017

Walter advertised a mystery walk, and discussed several possible alternatives to the group of nine, before confirming which to do. In view of recent rain and a misty day he proposed a walk in the wooded area on the far side of Fernilee Reservoir.

First it was down Goyt Valley to Madscar Farm, then a short climb to Normanwood and Oldfield. The forest road was followed to Jep Clough, which was descended on an increasingly tricky path, to the water side, where we turned by the reservoir, passed by Deep Clough, and over the dam to our cars.



A pleasant walk on the day, including two new paths; and afterwards five went on (by car!) to the Hanging Gate for good value pensioners' lunches.

Wednesday walk Jan 25th

On Wednesday 23rd January, Sam and Irene Chappell led 19 walkers on a six mile walk from Dunham Massey NT. The sun was shining and it was reasonably warm as the group set off from the deer park heading east towards Oldfield Brow.

After leaving the park and crossing some fields we had a welcome coffee break in Dunham Town churchyard before setting off on the next leg of the walk which took us onto the Bridgwater Canal towpath and then for 1.5 mile along the Trans Pennine Trail to the village of Dunham Woodhouse.



From here we headed south, crossing over the River Bollin and under the Bridgwater canal to return to the Dunham Massey estate and our starting point.

Sam and Irene Chappell

Walk 22nd Feb 2017 Lindow Common



Merlyn and Joyce Young led members on ~6 mile walk around Lindow Common, Lindow Moss, Morley, Quarry Bank Mill and the river Bollin. Following heavy rain the night before, the forecast for the walk was variable with cloud, light showers and mud! Despite the forecast and gloomy start 17 members turned up with boots, gaiters and waterproofs starting from Lindow Common car park Wilmslow. We walked through Lindow Common a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and conservation area to "Black Lake.

Merlyn gave a history of the site past and present; a Lowland Wet Heathland rich in flora and fauna now managed under Cheshire East County Council. In days past, common land for grazing cattle, peat extraction, model boating. Ice skating on Black lake and a Gypsy racecourse surrounding part of the area.

Weather still cloudy with occasional spots of rain we entered Lindow Moss following bridal paths and tracks criss-crossing the old salt-line routes through the area. The bog originally covered 1500 acres but has since shrunk to a tenth of the original size by encroachment of farms, peat extraction and dwellings. We passed near the area where "Lindow Pete" was discovered in 1984 carbon dated to the first century AD.

Next surprise was Ross Mere, a lake which formed as result of sand excavation and is now leased by Prince Albert fishing club. This area appeared serene with green pasture and surrounding woodlands against the still water: alas the grass was too wet so coffee break was taken standing!

We crossed several fields leading to Morley Green but didn't stop to visit the café/complex of Cheshire Smoke House. Following farm roads, we next crossed the busy Altrincham Road to enter Quarry Bank Mill Estate for Lunch. Rain had started but fortunately with some negotiation by Merlyn the National Trust allowed us to take our picnic lunch indoors. "A warm and dry tabled school seating room."



We returned following the River Bollin and old Track ways back to the car park. David thanked Joyce and Merlyn on behalf of the group for an enjoyable and interesting walk.

Merlyn and Joyce Young