

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

The survey returns have now been analysed. We find that 68% of our members are female and 72% live in High Lane or Hazel Grove with some from Marple, and Disley and some further afield in Bredbury, Woodley the Heaton and Middleton. 64% of members are aged over 70 and nearly all are retired; we have just a few still working part time. 18% have been members for over 10 years but only 3% are new members.

It's great to see that you are very happy with your U3A; the most frequent comment was about the friendliness of members and the opportunity to meet new friends and do new activities. Most found the speakers interesting although there are some comments about overcrowding, the queues, the chairs and the sound in the hall.

The survey revealed a wealth of interests among members and lots of scope for new groups – if we can find members willing to help set them up and run them. We need more members to come forward and offer to help. Running a group isn't a big task and can be shared with other members. Why not talk to our Groups co-ordinator Pat Christopher about what it entails.

PLEASE SUPPORT JEAN'S CHARITY SKYDIVE

On 14 June Jean Drinkwater will be in Nottingham to jump out of a plane travelling at 120 mph at 10,000 feet. This is part of a world record attempt which is taking place with hundreds of people jumping in seven different venues. Jean is raising money for Retinitis Pigmentosa Fighting Blindness and would welcome your sponsorship. She has raised £200 so far and is aiming much higher. You can sponsor Jean at the May monthly meeting or online at <http://www.doitforcharity.com/JeanD>. Jean assures us that Kit won't be jumping with her!

SCIENCE AND SCIENTISTS QUIZ WINNERS

Thanks to all those members who attempted to answer the Science quiz. Three entries scored identical marks and are of equal merit so the prize has been split between these three people. The winners are Linda Morton, Kath Penney and Joan Waters. Congratulations to all three winners. Prizes will be presented at the monthly meeting.

VIENNA



A group of 28 members enjoyed an excellent holiday in Vienna last week. See page 5 for some highlights of the trip.

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FROM THE EDITOR

This is your newsletter so please help me to make it interesting to read. Items for the newsletter from members are always welcome so if you have any ideas or suggestions for content or articles of interest to U3A members please contact me at newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk

The next edition of the newsletter will be the July edition. Please can you get your contributions to me by Saturday 28 June?



Jim & Amy Summers would like to thank U3A members for the congratulations and good wishes on their Diamond Wedding. It was much appreciated.

APRIL MEETING



At the April meeting, we were entertained by the Robin Singers led by Joan Walker and accompanied by Christopher Ellis who gave us a range of songs from different eras. You might have spotted some familiar faces in the group!

VILLAGE HALL AGM

All residents of High lane and regular users of the Village Hall are invited to the AGM to be held at 8 pm on Wednesday 21 May. Nominations for the management committee should be given to the Secretary Mrs. J Armstrong 01663 810142. Please come along and support the Village hall

FUN WHIST

I am starting a Fun Whist group on Wednesday 21st May 2014 in aid of St Thomas Church Funds. This will be for a trial period of 3 months initially. The meetings will be held monthly on the third Wednesday of each month, starting at 2.00 pm prompt in St Thomas Church hall and finishing around 4.00 pm. The aim of the group is to have some fun as well as raising money for a good cause. The cost is £2 per person and includes tea/coffee and biscuits. U3A members are most welcome to join us. Please contact June Gibbs for further information

June Gibbs

2014 U3A PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Theme: Architectural Britain – old and new

The competition will be judged by Amateur Photographer magazine. The winning entry will receive a year’s subscription to Amateur Photographer magazine and a gift token. Three runners up will also receive gift tokens. There is no U3A calendar for 2015 but the photographs will be featured on the web site and the winners announced in the November issue of Third Age Matters. The closing date is 31st August 2014. See the web site for the rules for the format of photographs.

QUIZ: WHO AM I?

This edition’s quiz consists of clues which should help you identify a number of famous people; some real, some fictitious and some now departed.

1. Played a part in a Californian constellation
2. Still standing in Firenza
3. Bumble
4. Dickens 8 th novel
5. Goalkeeper, presenter and Messiah
6. Endless visit to town
7. Lawrence of Arabia
8. Pink Floyd
9. Confused Brit and Mel
10. Disqualified from Queens
11. Can you hear me Major Tom?
12. Yellow Robin?
13. NZ PM
14. Doctor 10
15. Eastender swaps opening for Henry
16. ?/Nixon
17. Captured Shrimpton
18. Mancunian might be shameless
19. Son of Phil and Jill, married to Ruth
20. Welsh speaking Prime Minister
21. Rummidge
22. Ring within sect could be tricky
23. Science of Man
24. Olympic Gold Montreal
25. Baywatch?

There is a small prize for the entry gaining the highest score. Each correct answer will score one mark. In the event of a tie the winner will be chosen at random from the entries with the highest score. The decision of the judges is final. Please send your entries to the Editor at newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk. The closing date for entries is 28 June.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

HIGH LANE U3A HAPPENINGS

6 May	New members coffee morning Village Hall
7 May	Current Affairs Group
12 May	Philosophy group. 'Identity'
13 May	Walking group. Walk and barbecue at Royal Oak.
13 May	Family History group visit to Dunham Massey Military Hospital
14 May	Monthly meeting. Janet Bradshaw "SWEET MEMORIES"
15 May	Craft and Needlework group
15 May	Photography Group. Lyme Park visit
21 May	Gardening group visit to Lea Gardens near Matlock.
11 June	Monthly meeting. Robby Robinson "AVRO 1 WOODFORD"
29-31 June	Walking group away break to Llangollen.
9 July	Monthly meeting. Swasie Turner "OVERCOMING ADVERSITY"

U3A NORTH WEST REGION ACTIVITIES

<http://u3asites.org.uk/code/u3asite.php?site=421&page=3>

10 June	NW Region AGM and Lecture day. Ashton Hall, Lancaster.
26-29 August	U3A NORTH WEST REGION SUMMER SCHOOL. Newton Rigg College, Penrith. Full residential rate £300 (£40 early bird discount). Day rate £150
13 September	U3A One-Day Family History Conference. Dome, Buxton. Cost £20

U3A NATIONAL EVENTS

21 May	U3A national lecture. Staying Sharp at The Royal Society London. Technology, Well-being and the Brain. 'Plug in, Switch on, Rewire'. Cost £15
9-10 September	U3A conference. More Time to Learn. Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester. Details of programme. Costs and booking form on the U3A web site.

FORTHCOMING HOLIDAYS AND VISITS

Contact: Margaret McDermott or Ruth Smith

6 June	CHESTER Boat trip on the Shropshire Union Canal with lunch. £30.50 Depart Village Hall at 9am. Balance at MAY meeting. There are a few places available. Please note that there is a dress code for lunch: SMART CASUAL ie no trainers, shorts or t-shirts.
18-22 July	LONDON. 4 nights. Half Board at the Radisson Blu Hotel Heathrow £389 approx. Balance at MAY meeting
5 August	LEEDS M&S Heritage Trail and tour of Lotherton Hall. Lunch included. £22.50. Balance at JUNE Meeting.
1-5 September	ENNIS. 4 nights Half Board at the West County Hotel. Flight from Manchester to Dublin. £450 approx. Single Supplement £50. Deposit £50 Includes visits to Birr Castle, Cliffs of Moher, Bunratty Castle, Flying Boat Museum and West Clare Railway. Balance at JUNE Meeting
14 October	Cruise to Cyprus, Malta and the Holy Land. Further information when prices reduce.
30 Nov	Visit to LUDLOW. More details to follow

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

14 May	RSC Henry IV Part 1. Stockport Plaza
14-17 May	La Boheme. Opera North. Lowry
20&21 May	Birmingham Royal Ballet mixed bill. Buxton Opera House
22 May	NT Live. The curious incident of the dog in the nighttime. Stockport Plaza
23&24 May	NT Live King Lear. Stockport Plaza
24 May	Village Hall AGM
1 June	TABLE TOP SALE High Lane Village Hall Sunday 1st June -12 noon to 2pm Tables £8 - £10 on the day Free admission so come and bag a bargain. Contact Dorothy Graham

2-7 June	Things we do for love. Alan Ayckbourn. Lowry theatre
15 June	St Ann’s Hospice Choir concert. 7:30 pm Stockport Town Hall. Evening of light and popular music. Tickets £14 from the Town Hall box office. Further details can be found on the St Ann’s Hospice Festival Choir website.
14 & 15 June	Dunham Massey. Music in the garden. 1-4 pm
14&15 June	Lyme Park bulb sale plus food and beer on sale.
18 June	RSC Henry IV Part 2. Stockport Plaza
23 June	Complete works of Shakespeare (abridged). Stockport Plaza
8-12 July	Gilbert & Sullivan week. Stockport Plaza. The Mikado and Pirates of Penzance.

BOOKS FOR U3A MEMBERS

500 Beacons: The U3A Story by Dr Eric Midwinter
 This was first published in 2004 when the number of U3As had reached 500 but it has now been updated to 2014 and is available on Kindle. Cost £5.14

‘The First World War Experienced’ booklet
 Open University

You can obtain a free copy of the booklet by going to <http://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/history/world-history/britains-great-war-order-your-free-the-first-world-war-experienced-booklet> or by phone on 0845 271 0016.



U3A Walking Guides

The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) has just published the first two walk guides created by U3A members as part of the Discovering Britain Design a Walk competition. These cover walks in Settle and Bodmin Moor. Cost £3.75 inc P&P. There is an order form on the web site.

IT CORNER

NEW REPORT - Tablets help drive increase in older people going online

A new study by Ofcom (published on April 29 2014) reports that the number of people aged 65 and over accessing the internet has risen by more than a quarter in the past year. This is driven by a three-fold increase in the use of tablet computers to go online.

The proportion of people aged over 65 that are accessing the web reached 42% in 2013, up nine percentage points from 33% in 2012, which is a 27% increase over the year. The use of tablet computers by older people aged 65-74 to go online is up from 5% in 2012 to 17% in 2013. However, while the majority of adult internet users undertake nine online activities at least quarterly, the majority of over 65s use the internet to carry out just two online activities this regularly – browsing websites (77%) and using email (77%). Those over 65 are significantly less likely than all internet users to do a range of online activities, including banking online (35% versus 61%), watching or downloading TV programmes or films (25% versus 40%) and visiting social networking sites or apps (30% versus 68%). More adults than ever before, including older age groups, are playing games on all types of devices (42% compared to 35% in 2012).

The number of adults regularly watching DVDs, videos or Blu-ray discs has fallen in the year (63% to 55%), while fewer people said that they read newspapers and magazines (71% to 66% between 2012 and 2013).

You can find the full report at <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/market-data-research/other/research-publications/adults/adults-media-lit-14/>

Don’t forget you can get the Which Guide to tablets free by calling 0800533069 or texting TAB5 to 80057.

A NOTE ABOUT EMAIL

Sending newsletters out by email keeps our costs down. If you do not receive it by email and would like to do so please let our Membership secretary, Margaret McDermott know. Also don’t forget to let us know if you change your email address. Remember, you can also read the newsletter on our website www.highlaneu3a.org.uk

VIENNA

This page presents just a few snippets from our week in this amazing city. There will be more information on the web site in due course plus a slide show of pictures.

Sue was impressed by the wonderful, integrated transport system! This was cheap, efficient, on time and frequent. The trams, buses and underground worked as one system. The 71 tram ran past our hotel door and took us to all the important sights.
Sue Dintinger



Pat enjoyed an uplifting morning at the cemetery where she visited the 'Musicians' Corner' where Mozart, Beethoven, Schumann, Brahms and various members of the Strauss family were buried.
Pat Gorie



We spent a relaxing morning sailing on the River Danube in the sunshine. We navigated through one of the locks where the boat was raised several metres. We found out that the water levels of the Danube differ because of the dams that have been built to generate hydroelectric power for the city.



Margaret found a small square dominated by Peterskirche, a large baroque church with a splendid blue dome. This lavishly decorated church has a fresco inside the enormous, oval shaped dome depicting the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. We were just in time to enjoy an organ concert which allowed us to marvel at the wonderful acoustics, followed by a delightful children's choir from Korea, entertaining us with a demonstration of high and low notes as they bobbed up and down in response to the sounds they made. Often it is the unexpected which is the most enjoyable.
Margaret Meekley



Janet searched for Beethoven's house – and found two in the village of Heiligenstadt, a pretty village with a school and a small church where Beethoven attended services.
Janet Vockings

On the Kahlenberg, Marlene and Bill met the owner of the Cobenzl restaurant, a former pilot, who was the proud owner of a bust of Princess Diana where he placed a fresh flower every day. He insisted on giving us a tour of his garden which had hosted the Queen, Prince Andrew, Kofi Annan and many other notables who visited his restaurant to get the fine view of the whole of Vienna below, but Diana was his favourite.
Marlene Brooks

Diane joined a tour of the huge Burg theatre built in 1888 which seats nearly 1200 people and boasts a stage 28m wide, 23m deep and 28m high. Although badly damaged in the 2nd World War the gala staircase survived – a very grand affair adorned by sculptures and paintings by Klimt and Matsch. The current production is Hamlet – staged in three acts with a total running time of six hours!



Eric and Sue found the Anker clock at just the right time – there is a special display at 12 noon each day. The art nouveau clock was created by the painter and sculptor Franz von Matsch in 1911-1914. It forms a bridge between the two parts of the Anker Insurance Company's building. Each hour, an historical figure or pair of figures moves across the bridge. Every day at noon, all of the figures parade accompanied by music.



And of course we had cakes!!
and stocked up on Mozartkugeln



GROUP REPORTS

BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 1 & 2

March Meeting:

Prog 1

For this meeting we enjoyed the light hearted ballet "A Midsummer Night's Dream" performed by the "Pacific North West Ballet Co" The dancing was excellent, and there was plenty of humour and mixed relationships caused by the very mischievous Puck who danced brilliantly. The scenery was very colourful and the music by Mendelssohn added something special to the afternoon.

Prog 2

"Etudes" danced by the Danish Ballet Co. This ballet shows the complete repertoire of every ballet step in the book, "Etudes" is in the repertoire of several ballet companies and was conceived by "August Bournonville" - Danish teacher, dancer and choreographer. (Superb dancing)

Prog 3

"Behind the Scenes from various Ballet Companies" (very interesting insight into rehearsals of different ballet companies).

April Meeting

Prog 1

"Good Swan – Bad Swan – Tamara Rojo (Documentary) this is all about the performance of the White Swan and the Black Swan which is danced by the same ballerina showing the different personalities of the two swans excellently portrayed by Tamara Rojo who is now Director of the English National Ballet.

Prog 2

"Nuages" (Clouds) - Music - Debussy's Nocturnes - Choreographer – Jiri Kylian – Dancers - Dorothy Gilbert & Manuel Legris from the "Paris Opera Ballet"

Prog 3

Ballet Clips from the "New Years Day Concert 2014" with dancers from The Vienna State Ballet Co. This was a very enjoyable close to our afternoon.

Sheila Hall

BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 3 & 4

The groups continue to meet from 2-4 pm. either on the 4th Wednesday or 1st Thursday of each month.

26th March / 3rd April: The theme was Ballet in France and the work of choreographer Roland Petit. We watched an excellent documentary on the work of Petit and his collaboration with his wife, the dancer Zizi Jeanmaire. This was followed by three short ballets:

- Le Jeune Homme et La Mort, danced by two stars of the Paris Opera Ballet.
- Carmen, by the Ballet National de Marseille.
- Bolero, set to Ravel's music and danced in the open on a massive barge in Marseilles harbour.

23rd April / 1st May: Continuing our season of Roland Petit's work, we saw Vivaldi's Four Seasons: Spring, Summer. Danced in the open in St Mark's Square, Venice.

This was followed by a full-length ballet, La Chauve Souris recorded at La Scala, Milan. The story is that of the opera Die Fledermaus and we all enjoyed a very amusing production set to the music of Johann Strauss.

The next sessions will look at the work of the Royal Danish Ballet and the Paris Opera Ballet.

Meg Humphries

CHURCHES AND PUBS

April 2nd St. Helen's Church Sefton

The first trip of 2014 took 43 of us to Sefton village to visit St. Helen's Church. We were greeted by the churchwarden Gordon Corbett and two helpers who supplied us with some welcome refreshments. Gordon then took us on a guided and interesting tour of this magnificent church. Described as the "Cathedral of the fields" the church stands among flat meadows. The large 14th century spire rises from a buttressed tower, the outlines unified by spirelets. All but the tower and steeple and the north aisle were taken down in 1500 and rebuilt in brown-grey stone. The church was built as a perpendicular church with a south aisle. The only things added since then were the choir vestry in 1915 and the kitchen and toilet added to the vestry in 1990.

A fine Tudor interior contains glorious early 16th century woodwork, including the canopied rood and chancel screens, the screens to the North and South chapels, and to the South the Sefton pew. The chancel stalls of 1500 are complete and there is a canopied pulpit of 1635. The Molyneux monuments commemorate the family's courage in battle and range from a mailed effigy of 1296 to a table tomb with brasses of 1568.

Lunch was taken next door to the church in The Punch Bowl pub. Good food and very good service. When we came out of the pub most of us went to have a look at St. Helen's well which was said to have healing properties in former times.

Paul Kenneth

CINEMA CLUB

This is a new group formed recently in response to the questionnaire given to members at the AGM. 20 members had shown interest in films and in going to the cinema. There was a strong feeling towards patronising the local cinemas, notably The Regent in Marple and The Plaza in Stockport. We had our first outing on Thursday April 10th to see "The Grand Budapest Hotel". It was an enjoyable night out and the response among the group was varied, although mainly puzzled!

We plan to focus on new releases. Our next visit is likely to be the new film "Noah". We hope to have a monthly outing, (suitable films permitting). Any ideas or suggestions are always welcome.

If you wish to join the group you will be very welcome. Please contact Sheila Harrop

CRAFT AND NEEDLEWORK

We last met at our annual post-Christmas lunch on the 20th March when we enjoyed an excellent meal at the Fiveways in Hazel Grove. Our April meeting had to be cancelled because of bereavement but I hope we can next meet on 15th May, the day after the General Meeting.

Marlene Brookes

FAMILY HISTORY

The family history group has a reduced number of meetings in the summer due to other commitments. We are still working on our WW1 connections so do get in touch if you have relatives who were involved.

We have had to change one published meeting date due to school half term holidays. Our program for the summer is:

- Tues 13th May Visit to Dunham Massey (Stamford Military Hospital) car sharing
- Thurs 12th June School. Thurs 3rd July School
- Thurs 31st July House meeting - Life in the workhouse

Pat Christopher

GARDENING

In pleasant sunshine 10 members from the group visited the Quarry Bank garden at Styal, a garden under restoration, and requiring considerable reconstruction after years of neglect. Daffodils, camelias, and formal beds of pansies were the main colour, but the hillside banks, although being replanted, were rather bare, especially a problem since Japanese knotweed needs to be eradicated – not easy at all.

Gentler paths to reach the upper garden had created circular routes, and extended the garden; while one of our number with walking difficulties was well catered for by a NT buggy. The outstanding feature of the garden is undoubtedly its superb position by the river Bollin, with wonderful views all around.



In April, 11 members visited Carol and John's garden in Marple, and enjoyed looking at their well established Pieris tree, early alpine clematis, and yellow rhododendron "Conroy", amongst other things. We discussed one or two gardening problem and Betty brought some cuttings. Pleasant sunshine helped our visit, together with generous helpings of seasonal hot cross buns – Thanks John and Carol.

Walter Mason

MARPLE BRIDGE & MELLOR U3A OPEN GARDENING GROUP

At the March meeting Jane Allison’s talk on “How to make the most of your garden space” gave some timely advice to enthusiasts to plan their gardens big or small to give it perspective and pleasing design. Aided by “before” and “after” photographs she demonstrated how by just moving a few plants or containers your garden could get the “wow” factor.

In April, RHS Britain in Bloom judge David Blelowski described some of the science behind gardening - why, for example, does moss killer not kill grass and why, if you plant your tulip bulbs upside down by mistake, they will still flower albeit a little later than they would normally. Mr. Blelowski went on to tell of the scientific work being done to graft potato plants onto tomato plants, and how it has been discovered that trees over 700 yds apart “talk” to each other.

Our next events are an outing to Bodnant Gardens in May followed in June by a talk from David Tideswell “Garden birds in Spring and Summer”.

Jean Parrish

GERMAN

The German group has continued to meet each Friday. Last week, five members of the group were practising their speaking skills in Vienna. No doubt, when we next meet, there will be much to discuss on our experiences in the Austrian capital. In recent weeks we have had our usual mix of human interest stories and mini crime stories and have also listened to and sung along with some German Lieder by Schubert.

Marlene Brookes

HISTORY

The topic for our March meeting was the Peasants' Revolt presented by Kath Wareham which was really interesting and provoked a great deal of discussion. The Peasants' Revolt took place in the summer of 1381 and was one of England's most dramatic events. The unpopular feudal system was still in place, which meant that most peasants were not free to move

from place to place to sell their labour. However, peasant deaths as a result of the Bubonic Plague of 1348-51 decimated the labour force which gave peasants some bargaining power to increase their wages. This was very unpopular with the lords and a law was passed that wages could not exceed those paid in 1346. Added to this a poll tax was introduced of 1 shilling for every male aged over 16½ in order to fill the royal coffers. When tax collectors went to the villages to collect the money that had not been paid they were attacked.

Events escalated and culminated in thousands of peasants marching to London demanding to see the King in order to present a petition for changes to their working conditions. The revolt was generally quite well contained, but there was some violence: the rioters attacked some buildings capturing a number of dignitaries and executing them. The King agreed to their demands and asked them to go home. As a result of the revolt there were no more poll taxes and it helped to accelerate the decline of the feudal system

Pam Curley

PHILOSOPHY

On 31 March, Marlene Brookes gave a talk on the Geneva born philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau. We heard how he came to prominence after moving to France and publishing ideas which challenged the prevailing philosophy of the Age of Enlightenment. His seminal works on educational theory (Emile) and political theory (The Social Contract) not only had far-reaching effects at the time but still have relevance in modern-day society. Marlene outlined how his personal conduct did not always compare favourably with his stated ideals and the importance of his ‘Social Contract’ as an instrument for change helping to spark to French Revolution and its consequences. This was followed by a lively group discussion.



The next meeting of the group is on 12 May when our newest member, John Ashton, will give a talk on Identity. If you would like information about the group please contact me.

Lisa Czynievska

PHOTOGRAPHY

At our March meeting, Brian Beck hosted an exploration of manual camera adjustments, and photos from the same spot, looking at the effect of aperture, shutter speed and ISO, on exposure and depth of field. It was fascinating to see how four members of the group had all tackled Brian’s challenge from different standpoints and with varying success. It was interesting to compare manual cameras with modern cameras, although the latter were able to achieve some of the variations, using standard or intelligent settings. Later, the discussion explored methods of creating full screen views, and telephoto adjustment, during slide shows. There was no competition this month.



In April, we found the competition on “Water” to be a difficult one to judge but from a wide variety of attractive pictures, we selected Diane Saxon’s view of the emperor’s garden in Chengde, China as the winner with Pam Wood’s picture of Poynton Pool second.

An interesting debate ensued between advocates of “point and shoot” and devotees of manual selection of exposure conditions.

The next meeting is on 15th May when we will undertake a photoshoot in Lyme Park, meeting at 10am in Lyme car park. The group is planning a photo display for one of the general meetings later this year.

Walter Mason

READING

The Reading group is currently reading A Visit from the Goon Squad by Jennifer Egan, an American writer. The book won the 2010 National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction and the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. The book is a series of stories about Bennie Salazar, an aging rock music executive, his assistant, Sasha and their associates; some set in the late sixties and some more up to date.

SINGING

The Singing Group is now hard at work practising for two concerts planned for August. We are singing at Hazel Grove Baptist Church on 14 August and Dystlegh Grange on 15 August.

We are rehearsing songs from ‘Oliver!’ including, ‘Consider Yourself’, ‘Where is Love?’ and ‘As Long as He Needs Me’. We are including three Eva Cassidy songs, ‘Over the Rainbow’, ‘Autumn Leaves’ and ‘Wade in the Water’. Two other inclusions are Swing Low Sweet Chariot and You’ll Never Walk Alone.

Pam Wood

STROLLERS

The Strollers group continues to meet on the last Monday of each month. Easy walking at an easy pace. We walk for about an hour to one and a half hours on each walk. The company is good and there is a hard core of 8 to 12 members on each walk.

We are presently planning our summer lunch and walk in June. Suggestions for walks are always appreciated. Please feel free to join us at 9.45 am on the last Monday of the month. For more information please call either June Gibbs or Jean Goldsmith.

June Gibbs

WALKING

In March, twenty members of the group joined Ruth and Dave’s walk from Charlesworth. We started with a longish ascent, first steeply on road and track, then more gently on smooth grass took us to the fascinating saucer of rocks that is Coombes Edge. After a welcome coffee stop, sunshine gave way to a gloomy sky with gentle snow flurries, but it was easy walking along the grassy plateau. The track leading past Robin Hood’s picking rods (enhanced by historical, or fanciful? tales from Merlyn), became rather wet and sticky – not helped by the farmer driving his large sheep herd past us to pasture!



The path heading right seemed non-existent, but we soon picked up a good path, and in brighter weather after our lunch stop headed down through Moorside Farm and past Bot Wood to the Glossop Road, a friendly hot pie and ice cream store and our cars. Thanks to Ruth and Dave for the walk.



In April, an ‘elite’ group of six members joined Walter’s walk to Spond Hill. Optimistic visions of gentle walking on sweet green turf were thwarted by heavy overnight rain and enjoyment of the widespread views was reduced by fierce winds along the ridge.

The Spond Hill summit plate was indicating directions to many distant hills unfortunately all obscured by the poor visibility. It wasn’t all doom and gloom, as the route is a fine one after the long initial climb to the Bowstones ridge. However, the rain held off, and a surprise meeting with David Lloyd (carrying out his National Trust Lyme Park boundary checks) made our day! Our coffee stop was exposed and brief but we found good shelter for lunch with an inspiring view. We heard skylarks, saw a kestrel, and admired clumps of cowslip, and the wild forget-me-nots Germander Speedwell and Green Alkanet.

Our next walk is on Tuesday 13th May. Steve Reynolds is organising a late afternoon walk in Mellor, followed by a barbecue at the Royal Oak. Please indicate your interest to Steve.

Walter Mason

Please don’t forget to send all contributions for the next newsletter to me at newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk by Saturday 28 June 2014. Thank you

Diane Saxon