

FROM THE CHAIR

At this time of year we need to be looking forward to nominations for next year's committee. We will need a Chairperson, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and eight members to be elected at the AGM in February 2015. Members serve for one year and officers for two years. Nomination forms will be available at the November meeting.

May I remind you that the U3A is a self-help organisation run by volunteers? I hope that many of you will consider becoming involved in the High Lane Committee and having a say in how it is run. It is not an onerous task and can be interesting and enjoyable. The committee meets during the daytime six times a year.

Group Leaders-- Is there anyone in your group who could be invited to join the committee?

Please think about it.

Margaret McDermott

Your help needed!

**ADVANCE NOTICE: U3A MONTHLY PROGRAMME
8 APRIL 2015**

We are having another "home-grown" programme on this date. The singing group will perform for us, and hopefully there will be a "First World War" display.

But we also need some volunteers to give a 10 minute (or so) talk. It can be on any subject, from personal reminiscence, from interesting experiences in your former work, details of an unusual interest or hobby, or a humorous tale from a childhood escapade or a holiday with a difference. Help and guidance can be given if necessary.

So don't be shy, come and talk to me or to Margaret McDermott about your possible talk, any time soon.

Walter Mason

OCTOBER PHOTOGRAPH – Gardening group visit to Tatton Park



IN THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Chair's message | Current Affairs |
| Your help needed | Family History |
| Monthly meetings | Gardening |
| Tai Chi | German |
| Village Hall events | History |
| Photography competition | Holidays and Visits |
| Forthcoming events | Lunch Club |
| Calling chess players | Mah-Jongg |
| Group reports | Music Appreciation |
| Ballet Appreciation | Opera |
| Churches and Pubs | Philosophy |
| Cinema Club | Photography |
| Crown Green Bowling | Reading |
| | Shakespeare |
| | Walking |

FROM THE EDITOR

My thanks to the Group Leaders who have excelled themselves this month - we have lots of information about their recent activities and what they have planned.

Items for the newsletter from members are always welcome. This could be short stories, poems, letters, puzzles, news etc. Please contact me at newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk

The next edition of the newsletter will be the January 2015 edition. Please can you get your contributions to me by Wednesday December 31?

MONTHLY MEETINGS

At the September meeting David and Anna Drackley presented their Tales of the Unexpected; a series of unusual places and events that they have encountered in their travels around the world. Among many sights, we visited Australia and saw the Northern Lights.



At the October meeting members were entertained by stories and anecdotes from Pennant Roberts in his 'Cure for Nostalgia'. We heard about his time as a

young trainee working in a pharmacy at a time when the NHS was just one year old, penicillin was a new drug. He recalled the sights and sounds of the high street in days gone by.

TAI-CHI - EXCLUSIVELY FOR U3A MEMBERS.

The new Tai Chi class has completed learning the strengthening exercises called the eight treasures (Quidong) which will become part of the regular session.

The class will start learning the gentle Yang style 24 'Form' (commonly understood as Tai Chi) in November and Robert our instructor is suggesting extending the class for half an hour to (1.5hrs) to give extra teaching and practice time but at no extra cost to our members.

This is a perfect opportunity to join the class at the beginning of these sessions to learn the sequence of moves.

Ring Robert or turn up next Tuesday at 11am.

VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

Table Top Sale

Sunday 23rd November 12noon to 2p.m.
Tables £8 pre-booked - £10 on the day
Contact Dorothy Graham – Tel. 0161 456 3628
dorothygraham@hotmail.co.uk

Charity concert

Harmony Revival Barbershop Chorus Charity Concert on Friday December 5th 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 from Linda Morton 01663 762150
Bring your own drinks and enjoy an evening of music, song & laughter.



U3A is requesting help to create an archive of high-quality photographs that can be used for publicity materials and for image requests from the media and external organisations.

U3As are invited to submit photographs of members engaging in activities that show the essence of U3A — learning, laughing and living. Information and rules for submitting photos are at <http://www.u3a.org.uk/latest-news/354-you3a-photography-competition.html>

Note: It is important that a member who intends to photograph U3A interest groups gives the people present the opportunity to absent themselves from the photograph.

Meanwhile there is new central publicity material. What do you think of this one?



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

HIGH LANE U3A HAPPENINGS

| | |
|--------|---|
| 7 Nov | Social evening. Curry/hotpot. Tickets on sale at October meeting. |
| 12 Nov | Monthly meeting. Peter Levy 'Oh, Mr Porter' |
| 10 Dec | Christmas party. Peter Turner Misdirection (a magic presentation). Admission by ticket on sale at November meeting. Cost £3 |

FORTHCOMING HOLIDAYS AND VISITS

Contact: Margaret McDermott or Ruth Smith

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 29-30 Nov | Visit to LUDLOW staying at the Holiday Inn near Telford on a half board basis. |
|-----------|--|

Suggested holidays for 2015

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 st week June 2015 | Perthshire, Scotland |
| 14 July | Baltic Cruise |
| August | Stratford (combined with Shakespeare group) |
| 1 st week Sept | Ireland (South West) |

If there is sufficient interest we will plan them and get quotes from agents. Contact any member of the Holidays Group. More details will be available on the website in the next few weeks

U3A NORTH WEST REGION ACTIVITIES

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

| | |
|--------|---|
| 17 Nov | Best ever AGM workshop. A Workshop to discuss best practice in planning and running the AGM; procedures including reports, nominations and elections; Standing Orders; the Constitution. The Gateway, Warrington. |
| 9 Dec | Group Leaders workshop. Including a session on accessibility. Poynton Civic Hall. |

U3A NATIONAL EVENTS

| | |
|--------|---|
| 20 Nov | Managing Growth. Doncaster. Cost £5. Pre-booking required |
|--------|---|

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 1-29 Nov | Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. Royal Exchange Manchester |
| 13-15 Nov | A farewell to Arms. Lowry Theatre |
| 17-22 Nov | Agatha Christie's Black Coffee. Opera House |
| 18 Nov | The Bug stops here. Stepping Hill Hospital. 7 pm. No charge |
| 18 Nov | Vatican Museums in 3D. Exclusive visit to the very heart of the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel, in the company of Director Antonio Paolucci. Cineworld Stockport |
| 18 Nov | Swan Lake. Russian State Ballet. Stockport Plaza |
| 18-20 Nov | Bartered Bride by Smetana. Opera North. Lowry Theatre. |
| 18-22 Nov | Northern ballet Cinderella. Opera House |
| 19-21 Nov | La Traviata. Opera North Lowry Theatre. |
| 22 Nov | The Coronation of Poppea. Opera North Lowry Theatre. |
| 30 Nov | Classics by Candlelight. Mozart Festival Orchestra. Bridgewater Hall |
| 30 Nov | Viennese Strauss Christmas gala. Buxton Opera House |
| 9 Dec | NT Live. John. |
| 12 Dec | St Ann's Hospice Choir concert. Bridgewater hall 7.30 |
| 16 Dec | Royal ballet Alice n Wonderland |
| 21 Dec | Bolshoi ballet. Nutcracker. |
| 31 Dec | New Year's Eve concert. Buxton Opera House |



CALLING U3A CHESS PLAYERS

Around 90 UK U3As and some from overseas are linked by members playing chess by email. If you are interesting in joining this activity please contact Dick Chapman of Watford and District U3A at dick.chapman@ntlworld.com.

GROUP REPORTS

BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 1 & 2

September Meeting:- At our September meeting we viewed a little known but beautiful ballet and a documentary examining in some detail the role of ballet and the ballerina over a period of time.

Programme 1 - "Ondine" - The Royal Ballet - Choreographer Frederick Ashton and music by Hans Werner Henze. This ballet was first performed by Margot Fonteyn and Michael Sommes in 1958; however the version for our meeting was performed in 2010 by Miyako Yoshida and Edward Watson.

This is the story of Palemon and Ondine, telling how Palemon wedded a water nymph and what chanced thereafter and how Palemon died after a kiss from Ondine, who then returned to her element beneath the Mediterranean Sea.

Programme 2 - "Darcy's Ballerina Heroines"
In this documentary, Darcy Bussell explores the changing role of the ballerina, journeying from 18th century France to 1950's America. Many famous ballet dances are featured and the different interpretations of ballet as taught and performed in different countries such as England, France, Russia and America.

October Meeting:- At our October meeting we viewed a documentary showing the trials and tribulations of a ballet dancer and three short mixed ballets.

Programme 1 - "Agony & Ecstasy" - The English National Ballet - a "behind the scenes" documentary showing how demanding the rehearsals are and all the ups and downs and injuries that occur. Thankfully the end product is as always very gratifying even though the dancers are completely shattered by the end of the performance and deserved the applause.

Programme 2 - "Aureole" Nureyev & Friends" - The Danish National Ballet-Choreography by Peter Taylor. This is a short modern ballet beautifully danced to a piece of Baroque music. Unfortunately I have not found any information about this music. I will keep searching and any information would be appreciated.

Programme 3 - "Bolero" - Choreographer Roland Petit, performed by Lucia Lacara & Massimo Murru.

This short ballet is very intricate and typical of the choreographer who always makes his ballets very difficult for his dancers; they performed it magnificently.

Programme 4 - "Gaiete Parisienne" – The Ballet Russe - Choreographer- Leonide Massine and music by Leonide Offenbach. This is a short ballet performed in one act which depicts the amorous flirtations and high spirits of a group of people of various social classes, who patronise a fashionable Paris cafe one evening. The ballet features a number of dances such as the Waltze and Mazurka and includes a Can-Can with the traditional kicks and spins and much display of ruffled skirts black and garters (very colourful indeed)!

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.

24th September / 2nd October: We saw La Sylphide – the ballet which marked the beginning of Romanticism in ballet. It was the first with a 'white' corps de ballet and the first in which the ballerina danced en pointe. This very beautiful production was danced by the Paris Opera Ballet.

22nd October / 6th November: The theme was Ballet in Russia. We have already seen the classical Russian style performed by different companies from all over the world. This session we turned to the more modern heroic style of dancing and the work of the choreographer Yuri Grigorovitch. We watched the Bolshoi performing Spartacus with a superb performance by Carlos Acosta as guest artist performing the title role.

At the next session, as a change from full-length ballets, we will see a documentary on the role of women in ballet, with examples from the work of five famous choreographers (all male). This will be followed by some shorter pieces.

Meg Humphries

CHURCHES AND PUBS

St.Bartholomew's Church, Ripponden, West Yorkshire. 3 September

After a pleasant and interesting journey over the moors we arrived in brilliant sunshine at St Bartholomew's, or St. Barts, as it is locally known.



This is an old picturesque church being the fourth church built on this site and dating back to 1868. The first church was built in 1464 and given a Royal Charter making it independent of the mother church at Elland. It survived the Reformation but by the 1600s was in a poor state of repair. In 1610 the villagers rebuilt the church by the packhorse road; the church could be entered through a door on the bridge itself. On 18 May 1722, after heavy rain the river Ryburn, which the bridge crossed over, burst its banks and the north end of the church was washed away. The flooding was so severe that bodies were torn out of their graves; one coffin was even found up a tree! The third church was built further back from the river on higher ground in 1736. This one lasted until 1868 when it was found to have an unsafe roof. The fourth church was then built in Neogothic style at a cost of £6000 and this is the church we visited.

We were welcomed by the new vicar, Rev Chris Ball, his assistant priest Rev Carol Hirst and a church warden who gave us a brief history of the church. This is obviously a much loved church and is full of interesting features, old and new. The stained glass windows were truly beautiful, the colours so rich and vibrant. All the windows were donated in memory of loved ones. Looking round the church, not only the windows but also the High Altar, Processional Cross, Lady Chapel, Frontal Altar Cloth, Screen & Hymnbook Case, Oak Font Cover, Church Wardens Stalls and staffs were all donated.

In the bell tower there is a peal of 8 bells. The first, fourth and fifth came from the third church and the second, sixth and eighth were installed in 1870. Bell ringers from all over Yorkshire visit Ripponden to ring these bells.

You could spend many hours looking and admiring things of beauty and history but all too soon it was time to leave St.Barts and make our way to The Navigation Inn in Sowerby Bridge for a welcome and tasty lunch. All around Ripponden and district, yellow bikes could be seen; on walls, up trees, resting against chimneys, all reminders of the Tour de France which took place on Sunday 6th July.

Many thanks to Paul for once again finding a gem! A day of lovely scenery, history, local village life and customs, and to top it all, sunshine.

Sylvia Rushton

St Leonard's, Middleton

Our October visit was to St Leonards church in Middleton. Around 880 the mortal remains of St Cuthbert were carried to Middleton to escape destruction by pagan Danes then attacking the north of England. The decorated coffin of this wonderful Saxon saint now lies in a scientifically controlled environment at Durham Cathedral. 1000 years ago it was resited in this modest place in Middleton. After 1066 the Normans built a larger church and rededicated it to the French patron saint of prisoners - St Leonard.

300 years later Thomas Langley, Middleton's greatest son, received a religious education here becoming Prince Bishop of Durham and Lord Chancellor of England under three successive kings - Henry IV, V and VI. Bishop Langley never forgot his birthplace and in 1412 he returned to Middleton to demolish the Norman shell and rebuild it in the gothic style. St Leonard's great claim to fame is that it houses one of the world's oldest war memorials. In 1513 Sir Richard Assheton took a company of archers to fight the Scots at Flodden Field, the last medieval battle to be fought on English soil. That day was an English victory. To commemorate that day a stained glass window depicting the archers in kneeling positions with their names written along their bows was commissioned.

The day was a fascinating and insightful glimpse into our distant past. We were amazed to find a gem with such a rich history amidst the urban sprawl. The visit ended with an excellent meal at Ye Olde Black Ladd in Shaw, Oldham.

Anne Simpson

CRAFT AND NEEDLEWORK

At the general meeting in November we will be holding our annual sale of handmade cards and gifts ready for Christmas. The cards will include some in cross stitch, some with beadwork on them and some painted on silk. Gifts will include handbags, scarves and hats. Our members have been very busy in the last few weeks. This year our raffle will be in aid of Macmillan Nurses and we hope you will all support it. Prizes will include a cushion, scarves, a necklace, a table decoration and a teddy bear.



Marlene Brookes

CROWN GREEN BOWLING

Our group had a very enjoyable morning for our Autumn Pairs competition which was held on the 10th October at our usual venue in Torkington Park. Again we were blessed with a fine and sunny day, although a crisp autumnal wind ensured that on completion, the warmth and food at the local Bulls Head was a welcome refuge and very much appreciated to end the day.

Winners of the mixed pairs competition this year were. Margaret Evans and Len Wilson, and the trophy was handed over to them from last years winners, Geoff Fogg and Eric Smith. This is proving to be a very popular competition, and was very well supported by all members of the group.

The recently introduced Tuesday morning group has met for the last six weeks. It is proving to be a little slow to get going with just a few 'stalwart' players being regulars. At the moment, we are supporting this group with a few members from the Thursday group, but it is generally not the intention to continue in this way. It is understood that it is the winter season and Torkington Park attracts members from other clubs during the winter for practice during their closed seasons and indeed becomes quite busy if the weather is good. Meanwhile, the Tuesday group will be reviewed in a few months time. New members are

invited to join the Tuesday group if they wish to join us, and Andre Lister is the group contact for Tuesdays.

We continue to play in Torkington Park on Tuesday mornings and Thursdays commencing at 10.00a.m. until 12.00 noon prompt. with a short break for coffee and comfort break - and also a catch up.

Margaret Evans

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Meeting 17 September

Dominating the media was the Scottish referendum. We noted that the various news media seemed to have interviewed most of the Scottish population after which they all concluded that it would be very difficult to say what the result would be. It was the same story with the pollsters. Their graphs showed that it would be a very close result. We concluded that the experts could be right, assuming that the answers given to the pollsters were frank and honest. We talked about the reasons for holding a referendum at this particular time and agreed that the SNP must have very strong reasons for doing so. They must have realised that if the vote went against them it would be many years before they could try again and circumstances may have changed considerably. But look at the rewards if they won! Well worth a gamble! We were intrigued by the arrival, at top speed and noise, of the leaders of the three major Westminster parties, falling over each other to promise the Scots all manner of wonderful things if they voted "NO". But will these promises be kept or will the usual politician's amnesia set in? Promises? What promises? Of course, by the time this is published we will know the result of the referendum and what all the affected parties expect to happen. We'll see.

We then discussed Boris Johnson and his intention to stand for Parliament. He has said that if he is elected he will relinquish his job as Mayor of London, but not for a year at least. Should this be allowed? Two salaries and two expense accounts in these times of austerity? One member pointed out that it is quite usual for MPs. to have another source of income but Boris's situation will be different. He will be getting two salaries from the 'hard working tax payer'. We all agreed that it is hypocritical and avaricious.

The next subject was the sad case of the child whose parents took him out of the hospital which could not provide the treatment which they believed would help him. Unfortunately they did not tell the hospital authorities of their intentions and the police were informed. This set in motion a train of events which resulted in the child being made a Ward of Court. The parents were arrested in Spain and the infant was taken to the nearest hospital. The news media then got hold of the story and it became an international condemnation of the various people involved in this, by now, bizarre situation. The group all agreed that everybody had acted in the interest of the child; we expressed our sympathy for the parents, the infant and the unfortunate hospital staff. However, it all ended with the parents being reunited with the child and the lesson that non-communication with Authority can have serious consequences. One unforeseen result was that sympathetic members of the public donated a substantial sum of money to help pay for further medical treatment.

The final item on our list was the privatized Passport Office. It has been reported that delays of many months are occurring and many people are having to cancel holidays because of the tardiness of the Passport Office. One of our members was affected by this delay but fortunately had her Passport renewed 'just in time'. It has been reported that the delays were caused by a lack of staff and a computer system that was not fit for purpose. The Home Office is said to be looking into it, so that's OK then!

Jim McDermott

FAMILY HISTORY

On Saturday 13th September seven members of the family history group attended a conference in the dome in Buxton. The day consisted of four speakers on various aspects of family history with an excellent buffet lunch included. Professor Rebecca Probert was the first speaker. Her lecture was entitled "Sex, illegitimacy and cohabitation", guaranteed to get us all there on time and she did not disappoint. Among many interesting facts was that marriage was considered the norm and cohabitation did not exist until the latter part of the 20th century. The poor law regulations and the stigma of illegitimacy and cohabitation made marriage the only viable option for our ancestors.

The second speaker Dr Nick Barratt spoke eloquently about the future of family history. He is still very involved with the TV programme "Who do you think you are" and told several interesting and amusing stories about some of the celebrities featured, but the crux of his lecture was about putting flesh on the bones of our ancestors. Collecting facts is now so much easier with the internet and still important, but putting events into context and ensuring information about the lives they led is preserved is more difficult. He urged us to consider our own lives and those of our parents and grandparents and to make sure other generations are aware of our living history.



After lunch we had time to browse the trade and family history society stands before John Titford, an eminent genealogist gave an informative and

humorous talk on the subject of "Barking up the wrong tree". We all empathised with his stories of trying to solve a particular puzzle in one's family tree and jumping to the wrong conclusion. He urged us to use information from computer programmes but to authenticate through local visits and hard research. His "God of serendipity" seemed to come to his aid and enable him to solve a particular puzzle when looking at other information. Many of us hope this will happen in our research.

The final speaker was Elder Wayne Smith from the Church of Latter Day Saints who runs the website Family Search. He gave us information relating to the site and the various new menus now available. The work done by volunteers of the church is remarkable, all the more so as the site is free for all to use. The day was a great success and enjoyed by all.

Sue Harlin

GARDENING



At the September meeting, eight members were entertained royally by John Ainscoe, and his barbecue assistant. We dined on tasty

hotdogs and burger buns, followed by cake and ice cream, and washed them down with Bucks Fizz, All this while we sunbathed on John's warm patio, and admired his colourful home grown rudbeckia and cosmos, plus some attractive dahlias. We even found the time to discuss our winter lunch – to be held in January at Platform One, Romiley, and next year's programme! It was a great meeting, thanks to John – although we know that Manchester rains will return eventually, and future meetings will be more low key.

On October 15th, six members visited Tatton Park gardens and enjoyed leisurely strolls on a warm cloudy day. Obviously, on a mid-October day, flowers were sometimes on their last legs in the borders, but trees and bushes were starting to change colour, and made for pleasant walking in the woods. The piece-de-resistance is always the Japanese Garden and this did not disappoint.

The small leaved maples displayed myriad shades of gold, pink



and orange, and made the trip well worthwhile.

Visits inside were possible for a small charge, but an hour standing to hear a long information talk seemed a bit heavy, so we opted instead for comfy seats admiring the views, particularly nice in the formal area before the house. It made a very pleasant end to our year of garden visits.

Walter Mason

MARPLE BRIDGE & MELLOR U3A OPEN GARDENING GROUP

The Garden Group meetings during 2014 have proved to be both entertaining and interesting; our guest speakers bringing a wealth of knowledge to share with an enthusiastic audience. We have had three outings to some fabulous gardens, the last being to RHS Harlow Carr near Harrogate to enjoy some spectacular autumn leaf colour.

The November meeting (12th Nov) of the group will be the AGM and Planning meeting, where members help to plan the programme for the coming year. This is a chance for members to put forward suggestions for subjects they would like to hear more about, particularly welcome if they know of speakers who may be available for visiting our group so that 2015 will be as successful as this year has been.

Our Christmas meeting is on December 10th and we will be celebrating the season with coffee, mince pies, horticulturally-themed fun and games.

The group is held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (except on outing dates), at Marple Methodist Church, 9.45 a.m. for coffee/tea, meeting proper starting at 10.00 a.m. Cost is £2 (includes refreshments) per meeting.

Jean Parrish

GERMAN

We have continued to meet regularly on Friday mornings and have covered a vast array of subjects which reflects the many interests and experiences of our members. Recent texts have introduced us to vocabulary we never learned in school including surrogate parenting and crimes of passion. We hope to arrange a Christmas outing to a restaurant in the next few weeks.

Marlene Brookes

HISTORY

At the September meeting Marlene Brookes led a session on Austria Post WW1.

After World War 1, Austria lost more than any other nation at the peace treaty that followed: its vast

empire that had lasted hundreds of years which included Hungary, Romania, parts of Poland and the Ukraine, Bohemia, Slovakia and parts of Northern Italy. Democracy did not come easily to a country that had never experienced it and soon both main factions had armed militias. The capital, Vienna, however, had a government which was able to introduce real reforms to improve life for the majority of its citizens but for the rest of the country things were not so good; in the inter-war years Austria had 13 different chancellors. At the end of World War 2 it was divided, like Germany, into four sectors and did not gain its independence until 1955, and then only on condition that it would remain neutral; a status which has served it well. Austria today is one of the most prosperous nations in the European Union and although it has higher taxation than average in the EU, this ensures good provision of social services. A class of children in an Austrian school was recently asked what they wanted to be when they grew up; the response from quite a few was "A pensioner".

At the October meeting Mike Humphris presented the topic 'Agincourt'.

Pam Curley

HOLIDAYS AND VISITS

MEMORIES OF IRELAND 1-5 September



Isle of spectacular scenery and magical beauty
Rich historical trips of great interest
Ennis everything and more
Lots and lots of laughs and fun
A Guinness a day was a MUST (for some)
Natives so genuine and friendly

Days filled with friendship June Ogden

It was lovely to visit the birthplace of my mother and to see eight of my ten cousins resident in Ennis after forty years.

Eileen Exelby

We loved Ireland. Both the weather and the food were good and the people so friendly. The highlights for us were the Flying Boat Museum and Trinity College where the library just took our breath away.
Carol and John Harrison

Folklore and music
Friendly people
Lots of space
Kindness and laughter
Time immemorial
Green fields full of cows
Rhythm and dancing
We loved every minute
Museums and castles
High cliffs and wild places
Dublin and Limerick
Mary Milburn

Many lovely memories of a super holiday in Ireland but one quirky notice took my eye. In the small seaside resort we passed a hotel with a plaque on the door stating that Che Guevara had stayed there in the 1960s. I thought this quite strange. What brought him to this little place I cannot imagine!
Pat Gorie

With typical Irish "flexibility" we were to be ready between 9:30 and 9:45 to visit the West Clare Railway. Part of the track and an original steam locomotive had been restored and opened in 2010. But with typical Irish "flexibility" the station was deserted nor did anyone answer any phone calls. Never mind. We were taken to a small seaside town where there was a chance to paddle in the Atlantic which was surprisingly warm.
Susan Clark

There is no denying the passion and humour of our hosts during our recent visit to Ireland. When discussing their heritage and culture both characteristics are equally evident. Our driver, Wayne, was no exception when describing the origins of the many statues during our tour of Dublin.

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|--|----------------------------|
| Mollie Malone | The tart with the cart |
| The two seated ladies with their shopping bags | The hags with the bags |
| Oscar Wilde reclining on a rock in the park | The fag on the crag |
| James Joyce | The prick with the stick |
| Anna Livia | The floozie in the jacuzzi |

Brian Burke

Visit to the Manchester Police Museum



On 17th September 19 members of the Holidays & Visits group caught the train from Hazel Grove to travel to Manchester Piccadilly. Then a short walk to the museum in Newton Street to be met by our guide Sgt. Ron Flowers, in full police uniform.

The museum is located in a building which was until 1979 the main police station for what we were told was "a rough area". Sgt. Flowers, who joined the police force in 1980 from the army, but is now a retired volunteer guide, had been stationed there, as had one of our group members. The two of them reminisced about how things used to be done in the old days, which, by the sound of it, wasn't always all done "by the book"!

The museum is well laid out in several rooms, mainly on the ground floor, but with well worn stairs and a lift to the 1st floor. The first room is dedicated to the many local policemen who joined the armed forces for the 2nd World War, whilst the next rooms have a multitude of exhibits from the start of the first police force in 1829 to the current day, including uniforms, weapons, and even a police horse (full size model!). Many of the weapons were improvised ones confiscated from the prisoners after the Strangeways prison riot and from Manchester United supporters in days gone by.

A room upstairs has been converted into a magistrate's court, by installing all the fixtures and fittings, carefully restored, from the police magistrate's court in Denton. As well as being part of the museum, it is also used for training lawyers and others in court procedures. The final areas were the genuine original charge desk, where we were able to handle the modern webbing belt and armoured vest used today, and the holding cells. Not places you would want to choose as a B & B stop!

Our guide Ron, and his assistant Gary, were very friendly and knowledgeable, and helped to make the visit so interesting, but even without a guide there is plenty to see and read about.

After the visit we had a good lunch at the Rosey Lea Tearooms, opposite the museum. The new management has taken it upmarket from the tearoom it was, and has turned it into a stylish modern restaurant.

We thank Margaret Meekley for a well planned, well organised, and enjoyable day.

Gerry Chartres

Highlights of High Lane U3A Cruise 2014

- ★ Our ship, Celebrity Silhouette – but an endless paper trail of forms to be filled in prior to boarding.
- ★ At dinner each evening we were served by two waiters Jesus Maria Jose and Mohamed(no kidding) I never thought that I would see Jesus and Mohamed side by side in my life time! They were excellent waiters with a wonderful sense of humour.
- ★ Playing Bridge to the beat of drums and a squawking female!
- ★ Being offered " Holy Water" from a waiter to quench our thirst whilst waiting for the Shuttle bus at Ashdod in Israel. Very little to see here.
- ★ Jerusalem - exceeded all expectations; the Wailing Wall, and tracing the footsteps of Christ along the Via Dolorosa visiting some of the stations of the cross and touching his hand print; a very moving experience. Tight security was everywhere and some of the security guards were young girls carrying very heavy guns! The Church of the Holy Sepulchre was venerated as Calvary

and also contains the place where Jesus was buried. The Garden of Gethsemane was closed; gangs were throwing stones at tour buses.

- ★ Bethlehem (the name means house of bread) the birthplace of Christ and burial place of Rachel. A change of guides on entering this town as it is under Palestinian rule. The wall of concrete built by the Israelis was very noticeable.
- ★ Nazareth and a visit to the Church of the Annunciation; a cathedral like building. There was a Greek Orthodox service on and a large amount of scaffolding everywhere. Not my favourite place. One of our members very nearly got left behind here.
- ★ A visit to the Mount of Beatitudes and the Church of the same name where there were nuns on tour wearing baseball caps!
- ★ Capernaum and the Octagon Church built over the site of Peter's house. There were also the remains of a synagogue from the time of Christ.
- ★ The River Jordan - seeing large groups of people standing in the river and singing "O' Happy Day. It was indeed a Happy Day. It was not the original site for baptising in the time of Christ because during the war between Israel and Jordan people could not bathe in the river and so an enterprising farmer set up a new site.
- ★ Ephesus Turkey - this place is a must to visit. It was once on the coast but is now several miles inland. Wonderful temples, terrace houses and amphitheatres have been excavated. Four of us travelled here in a taxi with our own personal guide Margaret McDermott.
- ★ In Sicily a coach trip took us to a very pretty place called Taormina then upward and onward into the swirling mists and craters of Mount Etna.

We all agreed that it was the most interesting cruise we had been on; the service was excellent, entertainment first class not to mention the limitless free drinks! A happy time was had by all.

Our last supper was served to us by Jesus and Mohamed. Hallelujah and Amen.

[Stand Clear of the Doors Please!!](#)

June Gibbs

LUNCH CLUB

October 14th saw the first venture of the newly formed Lunch club. Thirty members turned up at Romany's Restaurant at Brookside Garden Centre where, despite the grey day, inside the conservatory the atmosphere was bright and cheerful.

To our great delight everyone voted the meal and venue a great success. Our next lunch is our Christmas lunch at the Hanging Gate in Chapel en le Frith. .

Jeanette Bell & Dorothy Neillands

A member of the group writes:

The members of the group want to thank Jeanette and Dorothy for their excellent organisation of the lunch and above all for volunteering their services to keep this very popular Club in existence.

We look forward to our next Meeting for a Christmas lunch at the Hanging Gate in December.

Eileen Fielding

MAH-JONGG



The Mah-Jongg group is now firmly established with meetings on Saturday mornings and Tuesday afternoons at fortnightly intervals. Group members are still very enthusiastic and most are now able to play with supervision using the basic rules of the game.

We hope to arrange a get-together over the Christmas period for a joint session and perhaps a trip to Chinatown in the New Year (for Chinese of course). Anyone interested in more information about the group can contact me by phone.

Lisa Czynievska

MUSIC APPRECIATION

The Music group has met twice now. At the first meeting we heard English music from 1913 - 1923 and looked at the influence WW1 had on the development of music during that time.

For the second meeting we heard choral music from 9th century Gregorian chants to Monteverdi's 1610 Vespers. Music both sacred and secular.

The group meets once a month on the third Monday morning in St. Thomas's church hall, from ten till twelve.

Sue Dintinger

OPERA

The Opera Group met in September to watch Tosca. We started with an excellent introduction by Antonio Pappano, visiting the locations where the opera is set, and putting the story in context. We then watched a performance which took place in these actual locations, starring Placido Domingo.

As a contrast, at our October meeting, we saw the New York Metropolitan Opera production of La Sonnambula. This is a rather silly, light-hearted story, with wonderful music by Bellini.

Future plans include works by Verdi, Donizetti and Gounoud.

Meg Humphries

PHILOSOPHY

At the September meeting, we tried out a new format using a pre-recorded radio programme as the basis of our discussion. 'Common Sense Philosophy', a Radio 4 programme from Melvyn Bragg's series 'In Our Time' was prepared and presented by John Ashton. The guests were A. C. Grayling, Melissa Lane and Alexander Brady.

From time to time the recording was paused so that the group had a chance to discuss the points raised and consider whose point of view they associated themselves with. We heard about the approaches of

different philosophers to the innate versus learnt conundrum. In particular the views of Locke, Plato, Descartes, Hume and Reid were examined.

The general consensus was that the format worked and should be repeated, perhaps with some small adjustments. It gives us the chance to hear experts in different fields discuss, and of course disagree, about philosophical issues from their various perspectives. We have a long list of topics to choose from in this series alone.

At our October meeting we looked at the subject of 'Women In Philosophy'. Diane Saxon presented a time-line of female philosophers and we discussed how many of them had been instrumental in advancing the knowledge and work of better-known male philosophers; often their relatives, teachers or lovers. Many of the women had been denied education and other opportunities because of their sex and had acquired their learning second-hand.

We reviewed Ellie Levenson's list of Top Ten Women Philosophers <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/this-britain/ten-great-female-philosophers-the-thinking-womans-women-299061.html> and considered who we might include and who we thought did not live up to the claims being made for them in their brief descriptions.

We then looked at the work of two women philosophers in more detail; Susan Stebbing and Dorothy Mary Emmett. Both were British philosophers Stebbing in the late nineteenth/early twentieth century and Emmett from the late twentieth century. We explored their lives, work and influences. Following this, several members of the group expressed an interest in finding out more about them.

The next meeting on 1 December will be the Christmas Party. Members are asked to bring a contribution to the event in the form of food, puzzles, quizzes, or anything else they deem appropriate. The first meeting of 2015 will be on 12th January, when John will lead a discussion on Justice.

Lisa Czynievska

PHOTOGRAPHY

The subject of our September competition was "Transport". This was won by Brian Beck (decorated horse and cart), with Walter Mason second (ornamental wheelbarrow).



Afterwards we discussed the recent photographic display and competitions at the village hall, presented Brian with his prize, and tried to analyse what differentiated the winners from the losers, and whether the popular vote gave a different slant than "photographic rules". We were very pleased at the favourable response to the display, and thought that it enhanced the August monthly meeting.

Four members attended the October meeting. The subject of the monthly competition was Portraits and this was won by a characterful photo taken by Walter. The main topic for the meeting was to agree the programme for next year. The next meeting is on 20 November when the competition will be Night Photos.



This group welcomes new members. Please contact Walter for details.

Walter Mason

READING GROUP

The reading group has read 'The Luminaries', 'The Secret of the Mirror'. This month's book is 'The Lie' by Helen Dunmore; a novel about one private's experiences and memories of the First World War.

Sue Dintinger

SHAKESPEARE GROUP

The group is now reading Henry IV (Part 1). In this play, King Henry IV is deeply troubled with national and domestic affairs. He has to meet a rebellion raised by Owen Glendower who is joined by Harry Percy (Hotspur), Worcester and Northumberland. He also does not like the behavior of his son, Prince Hal, who prefers the dubious company of Sir John Falstaff and his associates.

The companions join in a robbery, after which Hal and Poin, disguised, scare away Falstaff and Bardolph, although Falstaff at the Boar's Head boasts of his enterprise before Hal exposes him. Falstaff and Hal join in a charade taking it in turns to impersonate the king.

In Wales the rebels assemble and plan to divide the kingdom when victory is won. In London the king admonishes his son comparing him unfavourably to Hotspur. Hal promises he will change before leaving to fight the rebels and offering a command of foot soldiers to Falstaff.

The king offers pardon if the rebels disband but this news is kept from Hotspur. In the battle of Shrewsbury Hal kills Hotspur in a single fight, whilst earlier Falstaff has his famous soliloquy on honour (claiming he is responsible). The battle is won by the Royal army and two of the rebels are executed. Hal and his brother set off on various punitive expeditions.

Steve Reynolds

WALKING

SEPTEMBER WALK

Following Ruth's injury, Walter took 16 members to Chatsworth, on a glorious day for walking. From Calton Lees, the walk was on a grassy path by the River Derwent to Chatsworth Bridge, before starting a long gradual ascent, first to Edensor village for a coffee/loo stop. Then we continued up the village on a quiet road, which soon became a pleasant track past the Forest Nursery, and then with lovely views of the Baslow/Pilsley/Great Longstone area. Reaching the woods by Ballcross Farm, we turned to access the Calton Pastureland, and soon found a pleasant lunch

stop by the Moatless Plantation, with views towards Manners Wood and beyond Bakewell. After lunch we continued through the pastures, braving an extensive herd of brown cows and bullocks, passed the stock watering pool, and headed for the Russian Cottage. All that remained of the 5½ mile walk, was a short track through New Piece Wood, and an impromptu path swinging through parkland and back to our cars. In spite of the 600 foot climb beyond Edensor, we had made good time on the easy grass paths and smooth tracks, with few gates, and only a couple of very easy stiles.

Poignantly, on returning home, it was to news that the Grand Dowager Duchess of Devonshire had just died – we had mentioned that her recent home was in Edensor, as we passed through the village.

EARLY OCTOBER WALK

David Burke led nine members from Bridgemont, on gradually ascending paths,



eventually to the former Moorside Hotel. We passed industrial relics in Ringstone Clough, a farmer's sad memorial seat below Ringstone farm, the puzzling "Dipping Stone" on Whaley Moor, all the while having increasingly lovely, albeit misty, views. A sheltered coffee stop, and an easy descent, took us to the pleasantly wooded Todd Brook valley, and a streamside lunch break. There are many signs of former mill activity in this area although the buildings are unnamed on the Ordnance Survey. We skirted below Kettlethulme and passed Coalhurst on the way to Kishfield Bridge, diverted right to a narrow path, initially with a steep drop in the vicinity, then headed down to an unusual sequence of iron ladder and gated railings, leading to a gentle path by Toddbrook Reservoir. Glances at a scenic fishing pool, and the incline of the former horse drawn railway, and soon it was a quick canal-side walk back to Bridgemont.

David enhanced the walk with much researched information and pictures, and we thanked him for his very interesting walk.

LATE OCTOBER WALK

Fourteen members joined Sam and Irene's walk from Etherow Country park, a very pleasant 6½ mile excursion round Werneth Low. We started by the Etherow, but soon left the river to ascend through lovely Redbrow Wood, emerging by Gothic Farm on Compstall Road, Romiley. We crossed onto Romiley Golf Course, looking very attractive in the late October sunshine, and gently zigzagged our way towards Greave. A sharp right hand turn through a garden, and up a steep field by a former coal mine led to a minor road, and across to a level path leading to Birches Farm, now a reconstructed upmarket dwelling, with the footpath diverted around. A short climb and we were up and could follow a new footpath parallel with the road laid for the Cown Edge Way/Tameside Trail/Trans Pennine Trail combined routes. At the Joel Lane cross-roads, a path led almost directly to the War Memorial on Hacking Knife in the Werneth Low Country Park.



Time for lunch, and time to gaze all around at the magnificent panorama, one of the best in the district. But we had to leave towards Uplands Farm, where a left and right took us down a narrow shaded path, and past Hyde's Farm, guarded by a carved owl, turning left to a fieldside path, which abruptly went steeply down and up a stream gully, to join a familiar path by Mortin Clough, dropping down to the even more familiar tracks in the Etherow Country Park, past the Weir Cottages and reservoir to our cars. An excellent day with lovely weather and a really good route on unfamiliar ground mapped out by Irene and Sam, for which we thanked them very much.

Our next walk is on November 26th and will be led by David Lloyd.

Walter Mason

Please don't forget to send all contributions for the next newsletter to me at newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk by Wednesday 31 December 2014. Thank you

Diane Saxon