

# HIGH LANE U3A NEWSLETTER

[www.highlaneu3a.org.uk](http://www.highlaneu3a.org.uk)

Editor  
Jean Drinkwater  
e mail: [newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk)

HIGH LANE  
U3A



July 2010

## Is it Art



We intend starting an Art Group in September under the leadership of Brian Chadwick, a new member. If you are interested in joining this new group please notify Steve Reynolds at the July monthly meeting (or before). It would be useful to indicate your level of painting experience.

--ooOoo--

## GERMAN GROUP



The German Group will continue to meet on Fridays up to and including 16th July, before breaking up for summer. In recent weeks we have read about the women of Afghanistan, the history of the Marathon and, by special request, another of the excruciatingly bad mini krimis that appear in a popular cheap magazine, so we all now have the vocabulary to rob a bank in Germany.

## NEEDLEWORK GROUP



The Needlework group had its last meeting before the summer on the 3rd of May. In this hot weather, most of us don't feel like doing any handicrafts. We will next meet in September and will no doubt be attending the Needlework and Creative Crafts Exhibition in Manchester. We usually have spare tickets at a discount price, so if anyone is interested, please contact me at the monthly meeting.

*Marlene Brookes*

## Family History Group



The Family History Group meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month during the Autumn and Spring terms in the computer room at Brookside Primary School, High Lane. We have the use of 18 computers with internet access, an essential tool for the genealogist. A fiche reader is available and we are building up a resource folder of additional information. Our meetings are part general discussion and part computer based. While a basic knowledge of computers is useful it is not essential. Assistance will be provided on an individual basis, if required.

Topics are varied and include Civil Registration, interpreting census information and Parish records. We are happy to add extra topics of general interest on request. You will also be shown how to access and search useful genealogy web sites.

Tracing your family history can be a slow process, with a number of brick walls on the way. Perseverance often pays great dividends. After many hours of fruitless searching the moment you find your ancestor in the wrong place, or under a corruption of the surname, gives an enormous sense of satisfaction.

Apart from the usual dodgy marriages (and non marriages!) and families where the youngest child is actually a grandchild, members have explored sources of WW1 military service and army medical records, including medals awarded, one found a cousin who died in a prisoner of war camp. Another member started with a photograph of a gravestone and a picture of herself and now has several files of information, tracing one family line back into the 18<sup>th</sup> century. A further member's great grandfather married, had 7 children, his wife died, he then married her younger sister and had 3 more children! – How would you record that on a family tree? Come along and we will help you with this or any other problems.

We are hoping to start a new course in September. It will be aimed at new members but genealogists who wish to gain more experience will be more than welcome. We will publish our programme and dates nearer the time. The U3A requires us to cover our costs which include room hire. We do get this at a preferential rate but, to ensure we meet our commitments, we prefer members to pre-book and pay for a term in advance.

If you have any questions about the group or would like more information please contact: Pat Christopher, Sue Harlin, Jean Drinkwater

ooOoo

## DINING GROUP



On a pleasant evening in June 33 members of the Dining Group visited Lyme Park where we enjoyed an excellent meal in the Servants Hall, beautifully presented and served by extremely attentive and very pleasant staff. It was a privilege to be able to park in the drive at Lyme Hall and we felt really special.

Our next dining experience will be on Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> August at noon and will be a Chinese meal at The Beijing in Poynton at a cost of £6.50 per person for a three course set lunch plus tea or coffee. Please see Margaret or Jean, who are always available at the monthly meetings, waiting to take bookings.

## Reading Group



### The Other Side of the Bridge by Mary Lawson

The setting for this novel is the quiet town of Struan in Northern Ontario in the 1930s. It is a tale of sibling rivalry between Arthur Dunn and his brother Jake. World War II breaks out and many of the town's young men enlist but Arthur is rejected because of his flat feet and Jake is too young. The story of Ian, a doctor's son of the next generation (the 1950's), is very well interwoven with the story of Jake and Arthur. The story also touches on tensions between the nearby Indian Reservation and the Struan community.

Penelope Lively said of this book, "Tragedy abounds in the novel, but such is its humanity and its wisdom that the effect is not dismaying, but somehow reassuring. Appalling things happen, and are done, but in the last resort ordinary decency somehow wins out. This is a fine book - an enthralling read, both straightforward and wonderfully intricate."

The whole Reading Group enjoyed this book and would recommend it to others.

### The Return by Victoria Hislop

This book opens in the present with a more light-hearted subject: dancing. Thirty-five-year-old Londoner Sonia and her wild-child schoolmate Maggie have taken up salsa. They head to Granada to attend a course, much to the disapproval of Sonia's "dusty" husband James, who reckons she should concentrate her energies on hosting dinner parties and providing a son and heir. Sonia becomes fascinated with Granada and in particular with the story of a family that had lived in Granada during the Spanish Civil War in the 1930s.

The Reading Group was split in its response when asked if they had enjoyed the book. A criticism of the writing style was that it was too simplistic and the story felt somewhat contrived. However, everyone agreed that it had been very informative with regard to the Spanish Civil War, making us aware how little we really knew on this subject and how devastating it had been for Spain.

*Pam Curley*

## CHURCHES AND PUBS GROUP



### All Saints' Youlgreave



Following a lengthy spell of wintry conditions, May became the first real opportunity for our faithful group to venture out again in their quest for architectural clarity and gastronomic discovery. We were not to be disappointed. On Wednesday, 5th May we visited All Saints' Parish Church at Youlgreave or is it Youlgrave, Derbyshire. Reverend Gary Griffiths emphasized that his church was not just an historical reminder of our heritage, but remains very much a "living" church which continues to be the hub of village life and its community. Mary Bartlett who with her late husband had researched the 800 hundred year history of the church and its development, took us through these many architectural stages commencing

with Norman influence in the Nave and the North Aisle, the Gothic developments to the Chancel and South Aisle and later to the Bell Tower and the Nave extension. This completed the ground floor plan of the church as viewed today although extensive work was conducted on the interior of the Chancel during the 19th Century. All stages of the building are clearly identifiable yet cleverly embrace each other to provide an overall pleasing structure. Many and varied antiquities adorn the walls both internally and externally, the origins of which were described with interesting detail by Mrs. Bartlett. Worthy of mention were two contrasting tombs which were located in the Chancel. The first was a table tomb meticulously carved in alabaster which dominated the centre of the Chancel aisle. The effigy of Thomas Cockayne surmounts the tomb and records his death from fighting in 1488. The second tomb dates from the early 14th century and is oldest monument in the church. The effigy is that of Sir John Rossington and is more crudely formed from the harder material of gritstone. The exterior of All Saints is dominated by an imposing Bell Tower constructed in the Perpendicular style in the 15th century and can be viewed on all the approach roads to the village. Our host pub on this occasion was a mere stroll across the road to "the George" where we were served gargantuan portions designed to satisfy any appetite. However some did manage a dessert course. Thanks to the efforts of our leader Paul Kenneth everything went according to plan providing all the ingredients for a successful trip.

**Brian Burke**

#### St.Mary's Church Astbury 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2010



The second of our trips this year took us to St. Mary's church at Astbury where we were welcomed by one of the church wardens, William Bell. He gave us an excellent slide show and talk on this historic church. St. Mary's church at Astbury has stood on this site, in one form or another, for many centuries. It has been described as one of the most beautiful churches in the county. Its exterior, dominated by the detached tower and lofty spire, evokes the admiration of the beholder and this is increased when the majesty of the interior is surveyed. The earliest parts of the church go back to Saxon times. The church is eight feet wider at the west end than at the east giving it an added vision of perspective as you enter. The Astbury Devil nestles in the north-west corner of the west porch. In the north aisle, by the north door, is a notable roof boss depicting the Green Man or Jack-in-the-Green, a pagan fertility symbol adopted by the church to represent new life. The font and cover, which were part of the furnishings installed at the restoration of 1610, is placed so that the congregation can share in the ceremony when a soul is received into Christ's flock. The north aisle roof is not the original of this early English church. From the way it fits it appears to have been brought to Astbury from some other church. The communion vessels and pewter date from the Elizabethan period and are therefore rather fragile. An eagle in black oak serves as the lectern and dates from the early seventeenth century. The carving of the eagle is rather stiff and formal and is one of the few wooden eagle lecterns in existence. There are too many different windows in the church to describe but the church is well worth a visit. It is open to the public on Sundays from Easter day to the last Sunday in September between 12noon and 6-00pm. Light refreshments are available between 2-5pm. The trip was concluded with an excellent meal opposite the church at the Egerton Arms. Our next trip in July is to St. Wilfrid's and then Stydd church, both in Ribchester.

**Paul Kenneth**

## Walk Report May 2010



Richard Clark led a group of 17 from the interesting surroundings of Old Glossop, to explore a new area for many. We were led up through Cat Wood, alongside the Swineshaw Reservoirs, and over the fields to Little Padfield Farm and Padfield (home of The Peel Arms with its Hole in the Wall test and certificate).

With lovely views of the Longdendale Valley, we descended to the former railway line, now converted to long distance trails – the Trans Pennine Trail or Longdendale Trail are both on this track. After a coffee stop, we went further to skirt Bottoms and Valehouse Reservoirs – part of the famous chain of 5 Longdendale reservoirs, and continued as far as the heavily wooded Deepclough.

There we had to climb some fairly rough semi-moorland, to join the Woodhead Road. A left turn took us past Blackshaw farm, where several horses had young foals, into a short stretch of pleasant woodland, and past a large enclosure with hens, small pigs, and displaying peacocks.

A short diversion past Shire Hill Hospital soon brought us to our cars opposite the Wheatsheaf, where a locally brewed beer proved popular. Our food order was soon with us, and was well cooked and enjoyed – as we had all enjoyed the varied 5 mile walk, and thanked Richard and Sue for leading us. The promised heavy showers on the Pennines had held off, and the cool grey day had been good for walking.

## Walking Group Report – June



Only a select group of 8 did the Delamere Forest walk, perhaps deterred by the risk of missing the England-Slovenia game. After a birthday bun from Walter, we walked past attractive Hatchmere cottages, one harbouring swans and cygnets, and looked at a carved log by the lovely mere.

Then the route went by Flaxmere, no longer a real mere, and a quiet lane, then branching off on shady footpaths and across open farmland, before picking up the Delamere Way. This brought us to Harthill Bank on the less frequented eastern edge of the forest, with tall pines and beeches, not dissimilar to Alderley Edge.

After a brief coffee stop, we skirted a large forestry car park, now no longer free parking, before crossing Station Road and going down to Blakemere Moss. This used to be an extensive wooded and boggy scrub land, but has been flooded and made into a large shallow

mere. But no rare geese here, the mere has been taken over by hordes of noisy gulls, resting and nesting on the semi-submerged tree trunks.

After eating our packed lunch in a suitably scenic spot, we circled the mere, quiet during our Wednesday walk but often busy at weekends, until we came under the high wires and ropes of the latest sporting challenge Go-Ape. None of us dashed to try it!

Instead we continued round the mere, before venturing onto narrower paths leading into the denser trees of Hunger Hill. We speculated on a Welsh takeover of Cheshire, as piles of logs were guarded by bilingual signs in Welsh and English, before completing our 5/6 miles, which had been made very pleasant by trees sheltering us from the warm sun.

Soon we were back, and in time for the football game after all!

**Walter Mason**

### **Future Walks:-**

**July 28** - Bring Packed Lunch Meet 9.30. David Lloyd to lead a 5 mile flattish walk in the Parsley Hay area of Derbyshire.

**August 25** – John McCartney to lead a walk up Shining Tor from Errwood.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **HIGH LANE WALKING GROUP “ WALKING AWAY 2010” (28<sup>th</sup> June –30<sup>th</sup>June)**



Croome Park where this years walking group trip to the Cotswolds began was Capability Brown’s first complete 18<sup>th</sup> century landscaping project, with impressive eye catching structures and follies dotted around beautiful parkland. The house currently empty, but once home to the Coventry family until 1948 is in the process of being restored.

Our first walk on a warm sunny morning took 25 of us through the park on a 3.5 mile route on paths and lanes and included a very pleasant lunch stop by the lake with its summer lakeside population of dragon flies and damsel flies skimming over the water.

A short drive from Croome Park took us to Dumbleton Hall Hotel, about 6 miles south of Evesham, a traditional 19<sup>th</sup> century manor house set in 19 acres of private gardens and woodland. A delightful lake, giant cedars and resident black swans completed this most picturesque location. Having checked into the hotel our group of 33 members enjoyed a welcome pot of tea on the lawn terrace.

Dumbleton Hall was originally home to the Cocks family for 200 years. However the hall fell into disrepair in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and was eventually demolished. It was then rebuilt in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century using traditional Cotswold stone and became home to the Eyres family. It became a hotel in 1959. Our accommodation in this lovely hotel was spacious and comfortable with beautiful views from most bedrooms.

The main walk, was on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> another hot sunny day. The walk started from Winchcombe, a small-unspoilt Cotswold town, situated between Broadway and Cheltenham. After a fairly energetic climb up to Salters Hill we were rewarded with wonderful views north towards the Vale of Evesham. The route continued on the 'Gloucestershire Way' to Lynes Barn where we turned south towards Deadmanbury Gate with a stop for a packed lunch (complete with a hungry horse lunch guest) at about the 4 mile mark. Now following the 'Wardens Way', with views of Winchcombe and Cleeve Common we continued west towards Sudeley Lodge, passing Sudeley Castle and returning to the car park in Winchcombe. Afternoon tea on the lawn terrace at Dumbleton Hall was once again a very popular relaxation after quite a long 8mile walk.

Wednesday, our last day was also a very sunny day. After checking out of the hotel we walked into Dumbleton Village and on to Wormington Village to the charming church of St Katherine, passing College Farm and over the little River Isbourne. The return route on this easy 4 mile walk followed the River Isbourne Valley back to Dumbleton Village Church.

Our thanks must go to Jean and Roger Drinkwater for arranging and managing this High Lane U3a 'Walking Away 2010' event. The weather was excellent, the location first class and the walks were most enjoyable.

Sam and Irene Chappell

<<<<>>

### **DISCUSSION GROUP**



On the 26th May the group discussed the topic, introduced by Amy Summers, of Devolution within the United Kingdom. Devolution of Northern Ireland, (sometimes known as Ulster), was seen as being beset with a multitude of problems, some of which are not capable of easy solution, if at all. Some of the people within N. Ireland want to be independent of Whitehall, some want autonomy with very strong ties to Whitehall and others want autonomy with strong ties to Southern Ireland. Scots are being told by certain politicians that if Scotland could shake off the Whitehall yoke great things would follow. Some Scots believe it but a majority don't. As usual, finance and the right to raise and spend taxes enter into the argument. Although we didn't have any firm figures to hand the impression was that both N. Ireland and Scotland are net recipients of E.U. and G.B. grants. Wales seems to be the quietist of nations within the U.K. They seem to be content with having an Assembly which makes decisions on domestic affairs and they, in common with other members of the U.K., are represented in Parliament and seem to be satisfied with that arrangement. The question was raised how far can devolution be taken? Down to county level? Home rule for Yorkshire? It's a thought isn't it?

The usual questions have to be asked of course, who benefits and who loses? Would England be better on its own? There would probably be more losers than gainers. What would happen to the British Army with its Scots, Welsh and Irish Regiments? It does seem that devolution is detrimental to everybody except the ambitious politicians.

On June 30th the subject of the current national Budget was suggested by June Gibbs. Did we agree that it was fair and could we suggest other measures that could possibly have been introduced in addition to or in place of the present ones in order to reduce the National Debt? It seems that the Government has anticipated most of our suggestions but has not included the popular ones of

cancelling Trident, pulling the troops out of Iraq and Afghanistan and either stopping or suspending some of the more questionable benefits.

All the various quangos have been subjected to scrutiny and criticism as have some of the more dubious Government departments. It was suggested that the Banks should be made to make large contributions to the Exchequer (it seems that the European Parliament has suggested something similar) and no more "bail outs" using tax payer's money. What effect the increase of V.A.T. will have remains to be seen. The Chancellor says that it will affect rich people more than poor people because they spend more. Somebody should tell him about proportionality. But in spite of our very best efforts we could not think of any practical solutions, just a lot of impractical, unacceptable, unethical and probably illegal suggestions.

Jim McDermott.

## **HOLIDAYS AND VISITS**

### **Visit to Black Country Museum Dudley**



On Tuesday May 25th we had wonderful weather, excellent travel arrangements and a superb venue.

57 original historic buildings and features have been created on one site.

Highlights for me were entering the houses, shops and schools just as they were in the 1900s, plus a trip down a reconstructed coal mine. Unfortunately there was no time to do everything even though we had four hours there.

I was disappointed that I had no time to fit in the trip down the Dudley Canal or the silent cinema show.

I have already recommended this trip to another group and I would certainly enjoy a return visit.

Congratulations to the organisers.

Jean Arnett

## **PROGRAMME FOR 2010/11**



1. 17 night cruise on P & O Arcadia Oct 16th 2010.
2. May 2011. Coach holiday in the U.K. Date and venue not yet decided.
3. A 14 night Baltic cruise 7<sup>th</sup> July 2011 – Visits to Copenhagen; Stockholm; Helsinki; St.Petersburg and Oslo.
4. Coach holiday in Normandy in September 2011 if there is sufficient interest. Possible visits to Caen, Rouen, Bayeux and Monet's garden. **Date and cost to be confirmed.**

**For further information, or if you would like to join us on any of the above holidays, please contact Margaret McDermott or Ruth Smith.**



**Marple U3A Travel Group**

There will be a Weekend in Barcelona from November 19<sup>th</sup>—22<sup>nd</sup>. Flight from Manchester. Contact Hazel Jones on 01663 764976.

--ooOoo--

The following information was given to Chris Gibson last week by the U3A head office.

Computers may be bought from **Dell** at a discount. The contact at Dell is:

**Linda Kavanah on 0844 444 5254**

Any approach to Dell has to be from an individual not through the group.

\*\*\*\*\*

On the last page (10) there is a diagram I have received from Derek Jones, asking for contributions for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. Unfortunately I have had problems reproducing this and so my apologies to Derek for any imperfections to his work. – Ed

\*\*\*\*\*

**We Must Stop This Immediately!**

Have you noticed that stairs are getting steeper? Groceries are heavier. And, everything is farther away. Yesterday I walked to the corner and I was dumbfounded to discover how long our street has become! This extension work was apparently done at night!! Very sneaky stuff. And, you know, people are less considerate now, especially the youngsters. They speak in whispers all the time! If you ask them to speak up they just keep repeating themselves, endlessly mouthing the same silent message until they're red in the face! What do they think I am, a lip reader



I also think they are much younger than I was at the same age.

<<<^^^>>>

**Contributions for the next newsletter to be e mailed or posted to me by Tuesday the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010 at the latest please. Jean Drinkwater**

"The most exciting walk that I can remember was in 2002, when Joe Bloggs lead us on a walk along Curbar Edge and we got chased off by a herd of long horn cattle . . . . ."

*I find some of the speakers at the monthly U3A meetings absolutely facinating. The one that sticks in my mind the most is . . . . .*

Let your ideas start to come for **the U3A 10th Anniversary** publication

Write a note, send an email or make a 'phone call

Write a note or send an email

*I would like to thank all those who have helped the High Lane U3A to grow over the past 10 years. It has helped me . . . . . ( how?) . . . . .*

Contact Details  
By email:-  
10thAnniversary@highlaneu3a.org.uk

Or speak, to any Committee Member at the monthly meeting

They say that laughter is good for your health. If you want to reach 100 years of age you should join our U3A Table Tennis group. The table tennis is not all that good, but the fun and laughter is second to none!

Did you realise that over the years the High Lane U3A Needlework Group has . . . . .

Write a note or send an email

This photograph was taken on one of the early Churches and Pubs outings. We might be able to award a prize for the first entry to corrcctly name ALL the people in the picture.

Lend us your 'photo for a while and we will copy it and return it to you intact.

Since High Lane U3A started in the year 2000, there have been . . . . .

Can you name the year and the place that this photograph was taken on one of the Holidays and Visits outings?

These ideas are PURELY FICTITIOUS. Let me have some factual ones from your own memory store