

HIGH LANE U3A NEWSLETTER

www.highlaneu3a.org.uk

Editor

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January 2011



HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL HIGH LANE U3A MEMBERS

HAT PARADE - 8th DECEMBER 2010



The innovation of a Hat Parade was a big hit at the Christmas Party.

Sheila Sharp, the singer who had charmingly put us in party mood with Songs from the Shows, had the unenviable job of selecting winners from 50 or 60 hats of all shapes and sizes, on display before an audience of 140, while her accompanist husband Arthur, played suitable background music.

Derek Jones proved to be a popular winner with “Oklahoma” (an intricate Surrey with the Fringe on Top), while Rita Booth – “Educating Rita” and Arthur Stevens – “Hello Dolly” were runners up.

Some of the other hats on display have been pictured on the website, for instance Steve and Ann Reynolds “King and I”; Noel Christopher and Walter Mason – both “Chess”. (I saw many fine hats depicting titles of musicals, including Fiddler on the Roof; Lion King; Sound of Music; Cats and too many others to count – well done to all who made the effort - Ed)

But there wasn’t enough time to identify all the other entrants and their titles – perhaps they can send their names and hat titles to Richard Clark.

The Singing Group concluded the party with some excellently presented carols, appreciatively received.

Family History Group



The Family History Group meet at Brookside School and their Spring Programme is below:-
Please contact Pat Christopher if you are interested in joining. The charges will be the same as last term which is £14 for six sessions paid in advance or £3 per session.

Spring Programme 2011

- 6th January** **Session postponed from December on the Family Search web site** –free to those who signed up for the six Autumn meetings. £3 for other U3A members.
- 20th January Parish Records – where to find them and how to access them on line.
The Genuki web site
- 3rd February Family History Societies local to your area of interest.
Trade and Street directories
- 17th February Record offices and other local sources of information
Wills
- 3rd March Military Records on line
- 17th March Newspaper archives
Problems you have found
- 31st March Problem solving

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German group



The German group has been having a Christmas break in the last few weeks after celebrating Advent on the 17th December with mulled wine, sausage rolls and Stollen. Our Christmas meal at the Bridge in Prestbury had to be postponed from the 3rd to the 11th December when weather conditions improved. Our next meeting will be on the 7th January and then we miss a week while I am away and meet up again on the 21st January.

Churches and Pubs Proposed Visits for 2011



April 6th

St. Mary the Virgin. Wirksworth, Derbyshire.

May 4th

St Mary and St Barlock. Norbury, near Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

June 1st

Holy Trinity Parish Church. Ashford in the Water, Derbyshire.

July 6th

St Peter. Alstonefield near Tissington, Derbyshire.

August 3rd

No Trip

Sept.7th

St Wilfrids Church, Grappenhall, near Warrington.

Oct. 5th.

Holiday

November 2nd.

St Wilfrid. Mobberley, Cheshire.

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Needlework group



We would like to thank everyone who bought raffle tickets in November for items we had made. We raised £92 and added £8 from our funds so that both our charities, The Alzheimer's Society and The Ticker Club at Wythenshawe Hospital could receive a cheque for £50 which was very gratefully received. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, January 20th when at least 2 members should be able to demonstrate some new techniques learned in recent weeks. On Friday, February 3rd a group of us will be attending the Stitch and Creative Crafts Show at Manchester Central.

Reading Group Review



My Family and Other Animals by Gerald Durrell, Published 1956.

This book was already quite well known to the group and reading it more than fifty years after publication made us realise how attitudes have changed to wildlife preservation. As a young boy whilst living on Corfu for four years, Gerald had no qualms about capturing wild animals and birds (and their eggs) and keeping them in cages or other restricted environments, and then transporting them to England. At the group discussion it became apparent that we had been more interested in his family and friends rather than the fauna of the island, but as he had written this account through the eyes of a 10-14 year old boy, who had no particular interest in the people, it left a number of unanswered questions about the humans. Some of the incidents involving his family and the creatures he kept were very funny, and he certainly created a sense of place by his description of the island.

We all agreed that this book was probably more suited to a younger reader, but we also appreciated that Gerald Durrells' lifelong work in natural history has been a great motivator to humans in understanding the importance of our environment on a world wide scale.

Matinee Group



The next two performances that the Matinee Group will be attending are:-

Wednesday 30th March 2011 at 2.30 p.m. – “April in Paris” by John Godber presented by The Hull Truck Theatre Company at The Lowry. Tickets cost £14.00. A coach will be available and will cost £6.00.

The last date for booking the above is 28th February 2011.

Saturday 18th June 2011 at 2.00 p.m. – “Sweeney Todd” A Musical Thriller.

This will be performed at The Octagon Theatre, Bolton. Tickets cost £8.50. A coach will be available at a cost of £6.50.

The last date for booking is the 18th May 2011

For both performances please contact Pat Whinnerah.

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Holidays and Visits - Programme for 2011.



- April 12th.** Day visit by coach to **Castle Howard** an 18th century Baroque mansion near York.
Cost £24 including entrance to the House. Deposit £10. Full amount by March Meeting.
- May 16th.** **Isle of Man.** Four nights half board. Coach to Heysham and on Isle of Man.
Cost £379 including entrance fees. Deposit £50.
- July 7th.** 14 nights **Baltic Cruise** on P.& O. Arcadia. Own coach from High Lane To Southampton.
- Sept 9th.** **Normandy.** 4 nights half board at the Hotel Mercure Caen Cote de Nacre.
Visit to
Monet's Garden. Coach from High Lane to Portsmouth and also in Normandy.
Cost £338 including entrance fee to the **Bayeux Tapestry** and **Caen Memorial.**
Deposit £50.
- Oct 18th.** Proposed visit by coach to the **National Arboretum and Tamworth Castle.**
Details at future meetings.

FOR ANY HOLIDAYS OR VISITS CONTACT:

Margaret McDermott

Ruth Smith

MARPLE U3A.

- Feb 27th--Mar 7th.** **MALTA.** Half board at the Corinthia Hotel, St. Georges Bay
Flight from Manchester. Cost £649. Deposit £100.
- May 12th--21st.** **PUGLIA ITALY.** Flight from Manchester. Half Board.
Cost £1185. Deposit £100.
- July 1st--3rd.** **WIMBLEDON.** Coach from Marple. Cost £189. Deposit £30.

Contact Hazel Jones

DISCUSSION GROUP



On the 17th Nov the subject of The Big Society was introduced by Margaret.

What is the Big Society (as a concept put forward by David Cameron)? Well it seems that the P.M. has been rather vague as to the specific meaning of his Big Idea. If it means anything it is that communities will volunteer to accept jobs and duties which will enhance the quality of the local community. Which jobs? Cleaning the streets? Maintaining the condition of the pavements and the roads? Helping Meals on Wheels? Staffing local nurseries? Helping in the local Libraries, Retirement homes, Hospitals? Vigilantes patrolling the streets? Who will accept responsibility for any mistakes, accidents or carelessness by a volunteer? The P.M. says that the Big Society is a reform agenda which will take power away from the politicians and give it the people. A politician giving away power? That's a first! Nick Clegg has repeated this statement and says that it will build a Britain that is fair. What does that mean?

Francis Maude has said that "People know what is best for them and their communities and it is Government's job to make this happen as cost effectively as possible". Well not paying volunteers is certainly very cost effective. But everything we could think of is already being done either by paid staff or part time volunteers. So do we replace paid personnel with volunteers so increasing the number of unemployed? Mr Cameron has said that the Government will use money from dormant bank accounts to help fund some of the Big Idea. If anybody has a bank account which they have not used for some time now is the time to empty it, or lose it. So in spite of Mr. Cameron's rhetoric about the Big Society we couldn't see what he is getting at or what he really means by it. Just another load of waffle from a politician? Probably. Or is it a smoke screen for something yet to be revealed?

Jim McDermott

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Walk report



November 2010

Christmas came early, as the walking group were taken to the Hanging Gate pub near Chapel-en-le Frith by Ruth and Dave Smith. 24 set out on the fairly short (3 ½ mile) walk, first over the frost on the fairways of Chapel Golf Club, then a tricky boggy section with one or two awkward stiles by the appropriately named Marsh Hall Farm. The old farm buildings had been sympathetically improved, with many fascinating features. Incidentally, there are almost a dozen "Halls" in Chapel-en-le Frith, perhaps a vestige of its origin as a royal hunting forest.

A gentle climb skirted Marsh Green and Down Lee farms, before we turned right and along the railway path down to Combs village, with wide views from Ladder Hill round to Mount Famine and beyond. A quick right and left saw us walking the still heavily frosted fields to Combs Reservoir, quietly beautiful in the low winter sunshine. A stroll up the lane below the dam, and along Tomlane and Manchester Road soon saw us back at the Hanging Gate, where Mike and Margaret Snape awaited us. Thoughtfully, Ruth and Dave had booked a quiet upper room for us, as news of the pub's fantastic Christmas decorations had even attracted 2 coach parties! The food, too, was fantastic as we enjoyed our 2 and 3 course pensioners' specials! A happy birthday chorus for David Lloyd, and many thanks to Ruth and Dave, left us all happy and looking forward to the real Christmas when it comes.

WALK REPORT – DECEMBER 2010

22 joined Gerry and Jan Chartres for their December walk.

From the Robin Hood Inn in Rainow, our 4 ½ mile route dropped down through the village, then peeled off with glimpses of an attractive water-featured garden by Hayles Clough, and along the narrow paved route once used by mill workers, to Waulk Mill farm. It swung around the north end of Kerridge Hill, before climbing a newly laid stepped path through woodland, leading directly to White Nancy, a favourite feature once a folly built by the Astleys of Ingersley Hall (now Savio House), but today inappropriately decorated with a Che Guevara portrait.

A chill mist hid much of the extensive views, but after coffee and a photo stop, Gerry led us along the Saddle of Kerridge, which surprisingly unmarred by the quarries of the west side, to the trig point at 313m (1028 feet) with a little unmelted snow. The descent undulated between spoil of former coal mines, and needed a little care with a muddy, occasionally icy surface.

We returned part way along the lower part of the ridge, then skirted Hough-Hole Farm and up the lane back to the Robin Hood, and well earned drinks. The new landlord was evidently still finding his feet, and although the food was good, those without starters were definitely feeling peckish until main courses finally arrived.

It was the last walk of the 2010, and we were grateful the Chartres had chosen a good route in a nice location for our Christmas walk. Steve Reynolds added to the occasion with some well chosen words, as we looked forward to 2011 and more good Wednesday walks, plus a few Tuesday ones too.

JANUARY 2011 WALKS

Tuesday 11th Jan Roger Drinkwater Poynton

Wednesday 26th Alison Allerton Buxton

Walter Mason

Visit to Chatsworth Christmas 2010



After a coffee stop at Bakewell, we arrived at Chatsworth for a delicious lunch of casseroled venison, dumpling, mashed potatoes and a healthy mix of vegetables with Christmas pud and rum sauce to follow. We ate in the Burlington Room, which used to be a stable and still had the original feeding troughs.

A winter full of wonder is how the leaflet described the decorations at Chatsworth this year: cold and sparkly, celebrating Christmas with a Russian twist. Taking inspiration from classic Russian culture with Babushka's tale to Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker to the James Bond "From Russia with Love" and with guides on hand to explain the stories behind the themes the whole effect was magical. The shops were suitably festive and although expensive were a pleasure to behold. Altogether a worthwhile trip.

Susan Clark

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Recommended Recipe for New Year

Take twelve, fine, full-grown months, see that these are thoroughly free from all old memories of bitterness, rancour, hate and jealousy; cleanse them completely from every clinging spite: pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness.

In summary, ensure that these months are freed from all the past; have them as fresh and clean as when they first came from the great storehouse of Time.

Cut these months into thirty or thirty-one equal parts. This batch will keep for just one year.

Do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time but prepare one day at a time, as follows: Into each day put twelve parts of faith, eleven of patience, ten of courage, nine of work, eight of hope, seven of fidelity, six of liberality, five of kindness, four of rest three of prayer, two of meditation, and one well selected resolution.

Vigorously add in a teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a pinch of folly, a sprinkling of play, and a heaped cupful of good humour.

Mix well and cook thoroughly in an honest heat; garnish with a few smiles and add a sprig of joy; then serve with quietness, unselfishness, and cheerfulness, and Will and Guy guarantee that a Happy New Year will be yours.

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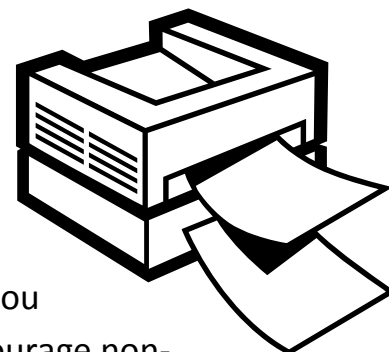
Dining Group



During the "wonderful" weather in December 33 members of the Dining Group went to L'Ecole (Restaurant run by Stockport College Catering Students) and enjoyed an excellent lunch. Well done to those who braved the snow and to the catering students who stayed, and cooked and served the lunch when all their fellow students had been sent home due to the bad weather.

Last call – before we go to press!

This is your last chance to make our Open Day on 9th March a memorable and fruitful day. By the time the next News Letter comes out all our plans will have been finalised, so please have a look at the following check-list and see if there is something you can do to contribute –



- 1 Short anecdotes or recollections of good times which you can share in the programme for the day would encourage non-members to come along and join in the fun!
- 2 Make sure that your group is properly represented on the day. There are 12 stalls allotted at present; is yours one of them? If not, please give your group leader all the support you can and let them have your ideas on how your group can ‘sell’ itself.

- 3 We have prepared small handout leaflets to invite friends and guests

U 3 A * High Lane
(* The University of the Third Age)
*A warm invitation to you
to come along to our*
OPEN DAY
*At High Lane Village Hall
on Wednesday 9th March 2011
Find out what we get up to*
YOU DARE NOT MISS IT !

along. Your group leader will have a supply of these in good time, so please make sure you get some and use them as effectively as you can.

- 4 If you would like to help out in any way (preparing

and serving non-stop refreshments is a particular area of need) please let any committee member know and we will gladly find you something to suit!

- 5 Finally, please try to be available on 9th March, so that you can come to the event, preferably with a guest or two, to swell the numbers and ensure that the event has a beneficial impact on our community.



High Lane U3A Speakers and Future Events 2011

JAN 12	RON CLARE	"40 YEARS IN TV"
JAN 19	(ANNIVERSARY LUNCH)	
FEB 9	AGM	
MAR 9	OPEN DAY	
APR 13	ERIC JENNINGS	"ON THE FIDDLE"
MAY 11	MIKE CLARKE	"HISTORY OF CHOCOLATE"
JUN 8	GORDON GREENWOOD	"AMERICAN CIVIL WAR"
JUL 13	BARBARA DAVIES	"BEEHIVE POWER"
AUG 10	U3A CHOIR + U3A MEMBERS	"A HOME GROWN AFFAIR"
SEP 14	DAVID FRITH	"A WALK ALONG THE RIVER DOVE"
OCT 12	ROLAND ANTONELLI	"ROMANCE OF BARREL ORGAN"
NOV 9	CHRISTINE HAMILTON	"A HISTORY OF STAINED GLASS"
DEC 14	CHRISTMAS PARTY	

[New Year's Resolution: To tolerate fools more gladly, provided this does not encourage them to take up more of my time.](#)

**Please let the editor have contributions for the next newsletter by the
28th February 2011.**