

HIGH LANE U3A NEWSLETTER



www.highlaneu3a.org.uk

Editor

Jean Drinkwater - e mail: drinkwaters@ntlworld.com

January 2012

HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL HIGH LANE U3A MEMBERS

NEWSLETTER

Because of the rising cost of postage and also in order to keep our membership fee at £7 for next year, those members who require their newsletter to be sent by post should send a set of 6 stamped addressed C5 envelopes to the Membership Secretary, Margaret McDermott. You can receive your newsletter by e-mail, download it from the website or collect it at monthly meetings.

Bridge Club



Twenty six members of the Thursday bridge group met at the Davenport Golf Club on December 15th for our annual Christmas lunch. It was the first visit to this venue for most of our members and we were all impressed with the service and ambience. Following drinks at the bar on our arrival, we were served a superb lunch ---- hot food on hot plates. After lunch we adjourned to the lounge for two hours of bridge with a break for tea and cakes. It was a lovely afternoon and our thanks go to Chris Gibson for organising not just this special event but his efforts throughout the year with the regular Thursday sessions.

Sheila Burke

ooOoo

GERMAN GROUP



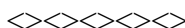
The group with spouses and friends (15 in all) enjoyed a delicious Christmas meal at The Wycliffe in Edgely on 9th December before breaking up for Christmas. We'll start in the new year with the reading of a round robin newsletter from a friend in Germany (yes, they have them there, too!) with an account of exotic travel, likely to make us all feel very small and provincial,

NEEDLEWORK GROUP



The Needlework group is considering changing its name in the new year, as much of what members do is more craft-based than needlework. We have not made a final decision but hope to do so in the near future.

We would like to thank everyone for being so generous in buying raffle tickets at the November meeting. We were able to send cheques for £65 to each of our chosen charities: the RNLI and the Heaton Norris branch of the Salvation Army. We sold almost all our Christmas cards and the cushions and toys also proved to be popular, so now we are completely out of stock and will have to get busy in the new year.



HOLIDAYS GROUP



TUSCANY(May 3rd- 10 th)

Balance required at the January meeting. Cheque payable to Greatdays Holidays Ltd.

CRUISE (Aug. 18th-Sept.1st)

On P&O Oriana from Southampton to Dublin, Iceland and Norway

CARDIFF(Sept.13th.-17th)

4 nights Half Board at the Thistle Park Hotel. Approx. £330, including visits to Cardiff Castle, St. Fagans, National History Museum etc.

Single Supplement £70 (limited number)

Deposit £50 (NON-REFUNDABLE) at the MARCH MEETING

DAY VISITS

Proposed visits are: Ffestiniog Railway (in June)

Quaker Tapestry Museum and the Dock Museum at Barrow in Furness
(in October)

Contact: Margaret McDermott or Ruth Smith

Below is a copy of a letter received which Steve and the committee thought you may like to read.

Dear Steve, Committee & Members,
Thank you so much for your lovely letters and cards with their kind messages of condolence. It all means so much at a time like this. Also thanks to those of you, who came to his funeral and helped to make it a very special day.
Wilf enjoyed his association with High Lane U3A, particularly as leader of the history group. He loved every minute of the hours he spent reading, delving and researching, in fact, indulging his passion for history, then sharing his findings/knowledge.
With best wishes to everyone,
Yours sincerely,
Maureen Gannichffe.

Reading Group



Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafón

The setting for this book is Barcelona and begins in 1945 covering a ten year period. A boy is mourning the loss of his mother and finds solace in his love for an extraordinary book called *The Shadow of the Wind*, by an author named Julian Carax. When the boy searches for Carax's other books, it begins to dawn on him, to his horror, that someone has been systematically destroying every copy of every book the man has ever written. Soon the boy realizes that *The Shadow of the Wind* is as dangerous to own as it is impossible to forget, for the mystery of its author's identity holds the key to an epic story of murder, madness, and doomed love that someone will go to any lengths to keep secret.

Below is a review of the book by Adam Lively of the Sunday Times and seems to sum up the general view the Reading Group had of the book:-

"The book could have done with a strong-willed editor (the atmosphere of mystery is sometimes flagged up rather than being allowed to speak for itself), but Zafon spins his increasingly complex yarn dexterously. There are well-composed set pieces featuring deserted mansions, alluring women and night-time pursuits through the alleys of the Spanish city. But for all the skill, there is, for this reader at least, an air of fakery. Call it postmodern allusion if you like, but the characters seem hand-me-downs. For those

who like their escapism dark and melodramatic, the novel could provide a good week's beach reading. For the more hard-hearted, it remains a piece of hokum."

Of the twelve members of the Reading Group six had enjoyed the book, however, no one really felt able to say that they would recommend it to a friend.

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Engineering & Science Group



Visit to AVRO Heritage Centre

Tuesday morning 25 October at 9.30am. Eight of us assembled at the Heritage Centre at the Woodford factory for a morning of the history of A.V. Roe and much of the British aircraft industry.

Locally the factory is known as the home of the Lancaster and the Vulcan bombers but this is only the tip of the iceberg. Over the 100 years life of the company there have been over 70 designs dating from the days of before powered flight to the 60s.

The first big seller was the Avro 504, a fighter and sold to airforces all over the world and became the plane "that taught the world to fly".

Between the wars the company became part of The Hawker Siddley Group but the design responsibility stayed at Woodford with Roy Chadwick as chief designer, a position held until his death in a crash in test flight of an Avro Tudor in 1947. During this period, amongst the aircraft produced were the Anson, Manchester, Lancaster, Lincoln, Shackleton and Vulcan.

In addition to these there were a number of development projects which never reached production as the money was not forth-coming from the government. Included were a vertical takeoff aircraft in 1941, a super-sonic bomber and a Vulcan conversion to an airliner called the Atlantic.

In the death of Roy Chadwick the country lost a designer of international standing equal in stature to Barnes Wallace, with whom he worked on the bouncing bomb.

A very interesting visit which will be well worth a return when the new Heritage Centre is ready.

Why

...do banks leave both doors open and then chain the pens to the counters.



Ballet Appreciation Groups 1 & 2



During the October and November meetings, the Ballet Groups were treated to a mixture of both documentary and dance. The documentaries gave us all an opportunity to see and appreciate what goes on behind the scenes prior to the actual performance of a ballet and also an insight into the role of the choreographer. A short review of the programme for each meeting is shown below:

Meetings 7th & 19th October

1. "Bourne to Dance "

This is a documentary showing the work of Mathew Bourne covering all types of ballet and dance. Mathew Bourne is a renowned choreographer who likes to put a new slant on traditional ballet such as "The Nutcracker" and "Carmen" etc. He is most well known for his controversial adaptation of the ballet "Swan Lake" using male dancers in the role of the swans.



2. "Western Symphony" - New York Ballet Co.

This ballet has a feel of the "Hoe Down" about it and is action packed full of energy and brilliant dancing. The choreography is by Balanchine. The ballet has no particular story line, but is a satire based on traditional ballets such as Giselle and Swan Lake. The music is adapted and arranged by Hershy Kay from traditional western melodies such as "Red River Valley" & "The Girl I left Behind Me".



Meetings 4th & 16th October

1. "Configuration" - The American Ballet Theatre

This is a documentary covering the making of the ballet "Configuration" and was followed by a performance of the ballet itself. The ballet was specifically commissioned in 1980 for Mikhail Baryshnikov and choreographed by Choo San Goh, with music by Samuel Barber. The music is a very difficult piece both for the dancer and the pianist, so it was a bit worrying, as to how the group would receive this choice of ballet. Thankfully as it turned out we all enjoyed every minute of the performance. The dancing was superb especially Mikhail who is now a particular favourite with the whole group.



2. "The Nutcracker Story"

This is a documentary about the real story of "The Nutcracker" and includes lots of information about Tchaikovsky and his music for this ballet. The presentation includes extracts from different productions of the ballet, dating back to the original production up to present day. There is also a lovely film version included (American of course), but one which children might enjoy.



Sheila Hall

Marple & Marple Bridge U3A Open Gardening Group
Meetings 2nd Wednesdays of each month
9.30 a.m. for coffee and chat
10.00 – 11.30 a.m. meeting



Programme for 2012

- 11th January – A Garden Through the Seasons – an illustrated talk by Walter Mason
- 8th February – A visit to Rode Hall at Snowdrop Time
- 14th March – Spring Lawn Care and Maintenance – an illustrated talk by Martin Webb
- 11th April – Propagation Techniques , a presentation by Anthony Norman from Conquest Plants Nursery, Bosley near Macclesfield. Plants for sale.
- 9th May – Kate Lomax – Hanging basket/container demonstration and plant sale.
- 13th June – Visit to Trentham Gardens – to be arranged
- 11th July – Mellor Open Gardens 2012. A presentation by Mary Hoult. Donations to Cancer Research
- 8th August - Our Horticultural show
- 12th September – Visit to Ness Gardens to be arranged
- 10th October - Kate Lomax Winter Container Demonstration and Plant Sale (Tomato Show?)
- 14th November – AGM
- 12th December – Christmas Quiz/Decorations

WALK REPORT – TUESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER



A fortnight after David Lloyd used the canal and Middlewood Way from High Lane, Brian Allerton, with a party of 11, used the same combination, but now from Bollington. It was a slightly misty, dull day as Brian led us up the viaduct path to use a long section of the former rail route to Barton's Clough, where we turned, briefly glimpsed Styperson Pool, then headed gently up to a coffee stop by the disused Breck Quarries. After a half-mile stretch of Long Lane, a narrow path led down past Lane Head Farm, and shortly onto the canal towing path, past the former lace mill, and down the steep steps to the River

Dean and recreation ground. On the way we had passed several wood sculptures, a well used badger sett, and a decorated bench, and Brian (assisted by Richard) had told us some interesting snippets about the Way, the canal, and the lace mill. Then we all retired happily to the Vale Inn, rejuvenated with fine food, and a wide selection of fascinating beers, all produced in the microbrewery only a couple of hundred yards away. Brian deservedly got plenty of praise for his choice of route and eating house – well worth a visit!

WALK REPORT – 30TH NOVEMBER 2011



22 joined group leader Walter Mason for a morning walk from Lyme Park. After a quick comfort stop by the timber yard, the route went over the lake outlet bridge, then left to slant up the wooded hillside, over a stile, and head across to the Hase Bank track. Soon a right hand green path was followed down towards Green Farm with widespread views through the dazzling low sunshine. From the farm it was a firm track to West Gate, and back into the park; but soon the group was led right onto a narrow path climbing steadily, before swinging back through the low bracken to the rocky outcrop of Cluse Hay, and a welcome but breezy coffee stop. Then followed the classic walk below the Paddock Cottage and along the edge path, with continual views down the steep valley to the right, and climbed into the Knights Low woods. A faint path on the left led up to a surprise view down the Lime Walk towards the hall. The Lime Walk was closed for the winter in favour of the deer herd, but a left hand detour just above the retaining wall gave lovely views of Lyme Hall, with the Cage behind. Through the gate, and we kept in the trees on the right hand side, with glimpses of deer, and back to the car park. It had been a lovely sunny morning, much better than the forecast, and several little tracks in the 4 mile walk had been new to many. So the group seemed very happy, as they dispersed to various eating venues, or rushed home to prepare for afternoon latin dancing, or whatever.

Walter Mason

CHRISTMAS PARTY 2011



The room for this year's party was laid out attractively for almost 130, with plenty of tasty nibbles, and hot sausage rolls and mince pies to follow, but it had a different format to the all-musical 2010 party. Instead the extrovert Siddington "corn dolly" farmer Raymond Rush had come to beguile us with his fascinating knowledge of Christmas customs and traditions, particularly the strange and sometimes ghoulish origins of everyday phrases. We will all think twice now at holly, yule logs, Christmas cracker hats, and May Queens after this talk. Nobody dared sneak a glance at the tricky quiz questions whilst Ray was speaking! He had such a command over his audience, and little need of a microphone. And

afterwards his array of hand crafted corn dollies proved too tempting to resist for some of our members. He then “put on a different hat” to judge our hat parade. Last year had seen an overwhelming array of hats, but this year’s Olympic theme attracted only a modest dozen or so entrants, but all of high quality. In many ways it made a better spectacle, as chairman Steve led the behatted dozen to parade twice round the room in front of enthusiastic watchers, and Raymond Rush showed his mettle by inviting audience reaction, and making impromptu pithy and witty comments, for each of the hats. Finally, June Gibbs was judged to be a worthy winner with her swimming outfit, with an Olympic flame hat and a Pole Vault hat second and third. The quiz questions proved somewhat testing perhaps, particularly the Olympic posers, but forced a tie-break to decide the second prize winners. A brief singing of White Christmas kept us in party mode after an enjoyable afternoon, and concluded the 2011 monthly events. Next year, perhaps no hats, and some music again, who knows?

Walter Mason

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U3A – SPEAKERS – 2012 DATES

JAN 11	Gordon Woodhead	The Great Trek
MAR 14	Nan Ironside	It could only happen to me
APR 11	John Steedman	Natural History of Gardens
MAY 9	Gordon Watkin	Measuring the Universe (The Sky at Night)
JUN 13	Ann Hearle	10000 Years at Mellor
JUL 11	Geoff Scargill	Edward Elgar – The Real Enigma
AUG 8	Carole Ward	My Life as a Tiller Girl
SEP 12	Elaine Bates	Lyme Hall My Weekend Home
OCT 10	Sandy Donachie	In Praise of Useless Science
NOV 14	Pam/Dave Greenland	It’s a Kind of Magic
DEC 12	Rev Michael Burgess	A Christmas Cracker

2012 Visits for Churches and Pubs Group



April 4th	St.Peters Edensor Derbyshire.
May 2nd	All Saints Church Gresford near Wrexham.
June 6th	St.Peters Hope Derbyshire.
July 4th	St.Nicholas High Bradfield S.E. of Sheffield.
Sept 5th	St.Giles Hartington Derbyshire.
Oct 3rd	All Saints Church Siddington Cheshire.
Nov 7th	To be arranged.

Churches and Pubs Group Visit to St. Wilfrid's Parish Church



The November outing for the group was a visit to St. Wilfrid's Parish Church in the lovely Cheshire village of Mobberley, and we were fortunate to have a bright and sunny day for the outing.

Our party of 54 members was welcomed by the Rev Ian Blay who gave us a tour of the external and internal areas of the church together with a very informative and, at times, amusing talk covering the church and its associated history with the surrounding area.

St. Wilfrid's Church stands to the north of the village and has been designated by English Heritage as a Grade I listed building. The church is dedicated to St Wilfrid an Archbishop of York who died in 708 AD.

Brief History

When the church was undergoing restoration in 1888 the remains of a Saxon church were found, with the earliest written evidence of a church on the site being 1206 when Patrick de Mobberley founded an Augustinian priory. This apparently lasted only a short while until 1240, after which the church had been annexed to the priory of Rochester in Staffordshire.

The oldest part of the present building dates from about 1245. At that time it consisted of a continuous nave and chancel under one roof, with narrow side aisles, and a detached tower. In 1450 a clerestory and new roof were added, and the aisles were widened. In 1533 a new tower

was added to replace the old one which had fallen into disrepair. During the restoration in 1888 the chancel was rebuilt and a chancel arch added to replace the original.

Features

The tower which has a parapet top, houses 6 bells and a clock, and there are double belfry windows on each side. The choir vestry is also in the tower.

The southern entrance to the church is via a carved porch, with a sundial etched into the stone work to the right of the door.

The organ, which was once the property of Sir Charles Halle, was moved from the Manchester Free Trade Hall and sits in a purpose built chamber.

At the approach to the chancel is a rood screen dated 1500 AD and is decorated with coats of arms and various motifs. The screen is supported on pillars with carved faces including that of a Green Man.

To the rear of the altar is a beautiful ornate reredos (altar piece) showing Jesus on the cross flanked by the four evangelists with St. Mary and St. Wilfrid at either end. This feature was again added during the 1888 restoration.

The church has a number of beautiful 14th century stained glass windows depicting motifs of local families associated with church over the centuries. In particular, situated on the south side of the sanctuary is a window depicting the arms of the Leycester family and on the north side there is a window commemorating St. Wilfrid flanked by St. Hilda of Whitby and St. Agnes.

The church has a long association with the Mallory family (later to become Leigh-Mallory) the most well known being George Leigh-Mallory who died on Everest in 1924. There are a number of memorial plaques making reference to the family throughout the church, and also a commemorative window to George Mallory.

On the north wall there are a number of medieval murals which unfortunately are faded and difficult to make out. One is said to depict St. George slaying the dragon and another, is a figure of St. Christopher.

Refreshment

Following the church visit the party reconvened for lunch at the Church Inn situated close by. The lunch comprised a buffet and for those with a taste for real ale a chance to sample a locally brewed beer "Wirlybirds", highly recommended by the Rev Ian Blay.

Once again a big thanks to Paul for another well organised and entertaining visit.

This is the last Churches & Pubs visit for the year and I'm sure everyone would wish to thank Paul for all the work he has put in to each visit throughout the year. Many thanks Paul from all members.

Bill Hall



DISCUSSION GROUP



On the 23rd Nov 2011 the group discussed the topic of Public Protests, using the current Tent Village protest in the immediate vicinity of St. Paul's Cathedral as a working example. The first question is of course what is the protest about? There seemed to be very little in the media except of course the usual denigration of the protesters with lurid stories about drug taking, drinking coffee at Starbucks and going home every night to a warm comfortable bed. A load of nonsense of course. After a lot of searching of the WWW it was discovered that they were protesting about the obscene rewards the Bankers received for ruining the world economy and they wanted to try to change the way the Financial system operates. So they concentrated their efforts on the way Banks operate in the U.K. in London, specifically The City, sometimes referred to as the 'square mile'. Because of the way The City is organised the protesters have tried to concentrate their efforts on bringing to the notice of the general public the fact that The City is an enclave within Greater London and is autonomous similar to the way the Vatican exists within the city of Rome. It has its own police force and its own Council with its own Lord Mayor (no connection with Boris, his title is Mayor of London). It is almost unaffected by the decisions of the Greater London Council which surrounds it, it has its own antiquated voting system with some business workers having two votes, one within the City and another one for the Council where they live outside the City. Even foreigners have a vote if they have a business within the City e.g. The Bank of the Peoples Republic of China and Goldman Sachs (USA). They seem to be exempt from some of the laws of the land. The Council is also exempt from the Freedom of Information Act so it is not possible to get to know anything about their decisions. Is this a satisfactory state of affairs? Do the protesters have a genuine cause and in view of the recent economic past should the general public be more sympathetic to their aims? Their aim is not the destruction of the Capitalist system, they want Capitalism with a human face minus the selfishness, naked greed and unbridled power which is wielded with the ability to destroy national economies.

We discussed the ethics and morality of the banking system and what possible remedies should and could be applied. But which Government will have the courage to do it? Bankers are able to reward themselves handsomely for failing and creating havoc in the world's economy and Governments use taxpayers' money to bail them out So should we all join in the protest?

Jim McDermott.

Why >> is it that doctors call what they do 'practice'?

PERSONAL IMAGE COURSE



A member of Bramhall U3A who has trained as an image consultant for Colour Me Beautiful has offered to run a 6 week course for us. It will start on February 14th. from 10 am to 12 in the Village Hall and cost approx. £13 for the course.

Brief outline:

Week 1 Colour analysis. Which colour suits you best

Week 2 Make up and skin care

Week 3 Body shape. How to dress according to your shape. (Tricks to make you look slimmer!)

Week 4 Style personality. Looking at new season's fashions.

Week 5 Face shape, hairstyles and glasses. Where to shop online.

Week 6 Visit to M&S at Handforth Dean to choose an outfit (You don't have to buy it!)

If you would like to take part contact Margaret McDermott.

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### **China Town Tour - 7 December 2011**



50 U3A members assembled under the Arch in China Town, Manchester, meeting the Blue Badge Guides. This is the first true Imperial Arch erected in Europe, painted red and gold and adorned with dragons and phoenixes - colours and symbols of luck and prosperity.

The Chinese community in the Manchester area began around Portland and Moseley Streets with laundries and later restaurants becoming the workplace. The first restaurant was the Ping Hong established in 1948, others moved gradually into old warehouses and services developed to support them, such as Old Peoples homes and the Chinese Arts Centre.

The Blue Badge Guide was very knowledgeable giving us information about the life of John Dalton (the pioneer of atomic theory) in Manchester. We then heard about the Portico Library (1806). A building modelled on a Greek Temple. As we walked around the area we saw the backs of buildings in the side streets still resembling the Victorian era.

Our next visit was to the Shanghai Clinic in Portland Street to hear about Traditional Chinese Medicine, which emphasises on prevention of illness, rather than the diagnosis and cure. It was very interesting to hear about the flow of Chi, the vital force flows in 12 channels corresponding to 12 organs and can be effected by diet or exercise (tai chi). Information was given about chopsticks being of equal length representing the harmony of ying (female) and yang (male).

Then on to the Athenaeum on Princess Street now part of the Manchester Art Gallery, built in a Greek revival style, originally home to the Royal Manchester Institution (set up to show Manchester could do culture!). It was here whilst on a 3 day visit to Manchester that Charles Dickens with his social concerns about poverty and injustice came to write the book - Christmas Carol.

Finally, we arrived at the Town Hall, a magnificent building, unfortunately we could not view the Great Hall and the murals due to a full council meeting. As the cotton trade flourished Manchester became a rich city and the Town Hall was built on a triangular plot in the Gothic style (1877). We visited the courtyard where the police station and cells still exist, although not used now. The buildings have never been cleaned as they are now used for TV and film projects.

Our last calling place was the Pearl City Restaurant where we all enjoyed a Chinese lunch and a cup of "cha".

Despite the cold and rainy weather it was a most enjoyable day out and many, many thanks to Ruth Smith for organising the Tour.

**Carole Rowbottom**

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*Why >> is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?*

*Why >> don't sheep shrink when it rains?*

**Please let me have any material for next newsletter by the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2012 – Ed.**

## COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS for 2012

The Committee for 2012 is to be elected at the AGM on February 8th 2012.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman are elected for two years and are allowed to serve for a total of four years if re-elected. The Vice-Chairman wishes to stand down.

The Secretary and Treasurer are elected for two years and are allowed to serve for a total of six years if re-elected. The Secretary wishes to stand down. The Treasurer was elected in 2009.

Six other members each serve for one year but are eligible for re-election annually.

If you wish to nominate any member for a position on the Committee, please complete the form and send it to Margaret McDermott by 31<sup>st</sup> January.

.PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY MEMBER NOMINATED MUST SIGN THE FORM TOGETHER WITH THE SIGNATURES OF THE PROPOSER AND SECONDER BEFORE IT IS SUBMITTED.

**VOTING** takes place at the AGM.

If you cannot attend the AGM you can request a Voting Paper from Margaret McDermott. It will be available from 11th January.

**Your completed Voting Paper should be returned to Margaret by 31st January 2012** (put the voting paper in a plain envelope first if you wish to keep your vote anonymous) together with a note saying who it is from.

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### High Lane U3A Committee Nomination Form 2012

|               | Nominee | Signature<br>of nominee | Nominated<br>by | Seconded<br>by |
|---------------|---------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Chairman      |         |                         |                 |                |
| Vice-Chairman |         |                         |                 |                |
| Secretary     |         |                         |                 |                |
| Treasurer     |         |                         |                 |                |
| Member        |         |                         |                 |                |
| Member        |         |                         |                 |                |
| Member        |         |                         |                 |                |
| Member        |         |                         |                 |                |
| Member        |         |                         |                 |                |
| Member        |         |                         |                 |                |