

**FROM THE CHAIR**

Included with this newsletter is a nomination form for the 2014 Committee. This may seem a little early as the Committee will not be selected until the AGM in February. However I hope this will give you sufficient time to consider volunteering and to put your name forward. We now have 443 members of whom approximately 150 attend our monthly meetings. Being a committee member is not an onerous task; in fact it can be interesting and enjoyable. The Committee meets six times a year.

Please think about it and get involved in helping to run your U3A.

Margaret McDermott

**FROM THE EDITOR**

Items for the newsletter from members are always welcome. If you have any suggestions for content or articles of interest to U3A members please contact me at [newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk)

**The next edition of the newsletter will be the first edition of 2014. Please can you get your contributions to me by Friday 27 December?**

**ONLY CONNECT QUIZ WINNER**

There were a number of good entries for the Only Connect quiz in the last edition of the newsletter. Congratulations to Lisa Czyniewska who was judged the winner. The correct solution was

Lucas, Formby, Michael, Bush	People with Christian name of George
Oscar, Nobel, Turner, Goncourt	Prizes
George V, Tuileries, Concorde, Victor Hugo	Paris Metro stations
Newton, Kelvin, Mole, Henry	SI units

**October photos**



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## MONTHLY MEETINGS

### SEPTEMBER MEETING



Michael Clarke gave an entertaining talk entitled the Role of the Toastmaster. Michael told us of the growing demand for toastmasters particularly for weddings. He took us through the toastmaster's tasks during the wedding celebrations and the problems that could arise over seating plans, missing presents, cakes, flowers and 'lost' grooms.

### OCTOBER MEETING



How I made a million by Neil Cliffe. Neil told us how after an operation for cancer at Wythenshawe Hospital in 1981, he decided to raise money to buy equipment for his surgeon's department. He saw an article about a marathon in the Manchester Evening News and signed up to run. This led to a team of runners getting involved in all kinds of fund raising activities and Neil was able to buy the equipment; an endoscope. This led onto more marathons and the team was able to raise a staggering £1m to build a specialist cancer centre at the hospital.

The Neil Cliffe centre still bears his name and is now part of St Ann's Hospice.

<http://www.uhsm.nhs.uk/patients/Pages/NeilCliffe.aspx>

## BEGINNERS' BRIDGE COURSE



Providing there is sufficient interest, we are willing to run a course for members who wish to learn to play Bridge, starting early in the New Year. This is aimed at absolute beginners. We require a group of 12 to be viable.

Mondays 9.30 – 12.00. 10 – 12 weeks  
Woodside Tennis Club, High Lane  
Cost will be £25 to be paid in full at the first meeting.

If you are interested please contact us, preferably by email, before the 20th December.

Steve Reynolds [steve.reynolds@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:steve.reynolds@tinyworld.co.uk)

John McCartney [jmccartney@btinternet.com](mailto:jmccartney@btinternet.com)

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## HIGH LANE VILLAGE HALL FUND RAISER

Fund raiser at the village hall on November 16th 7pm  
Sing along sound of music. The classic film with subtitles so you can sing along. Costume optional and you may bring your own drinks.

Tickets £6 including tea and biscuits.

Tickets from Ron Haselgrove

Linda Morton

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## NEW GROUPS

Groups are the life blood of U3A and the main reason why people join. We are always interested in extending the range of activities on offer. Do you have an idea for a new group you would like to be part of or to help organise?

Even if it's just an idea at this stage why not contact Pat Christopher to discuss how we might take it forward.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### HIGH LANE U3A HAPPENINGS

13 November	Monthly meeting. In the Bleak Midwinter. Talk by Brian Hallworth.
13 November	Marple Bridge and Mellor open gardening AGM and Programme Planning. Come and share your ideas for the 2014 programme.
15 November	Social evening. Admission by ticket. This event is now FULL.
16 November	Village hall fund raising event
27 November	Walking Group: Walter Mason 4½ mile walk from Buxworth.
4 December	Churches and Pubs Group. Visit to local church to be arranged
11 December	Monthly meeting – Aspects of Christmas. Peter Heaton. Cost £3. Admission by ticket. Tickets on sale at November meeting.
11 December	Marple Bridge and Mellor open gardening Christmas Meeting
18 December	Walking Group: Steve Reynolds
2 February 2014	Matinee club. Johann Strauss Gala Party 3 pm Bridgewater Hall. Details and ticket prices at next meeting.
29-1 July 2014	Walking group away break to Llangollen.

### FORTHCOMING HOLIDAYS AND VISITS

Contact: Margaret McDermott or Ruth Smith

19 November	LIVERPOOL . Day visit by coach. Cost £29. Includes tour of St. George's Hall, lunch at the Adelphi Hotel and a cruise on the Mersey Ferry. Coach from the Village Hall at 8:30 am. <b>This visit is now FULL and there is a waiting list</b>
27 November	Love Your Heart talk and basic CPR training at Stepping Hill Hospital. The month of November usually sees a rise in heart attacks. This is a chance to find out more about looking after your heart. Pinewood House at 7pm. <b>There are 3 places left.</b>

23-29 April 2014	VIENNA 6 nights Half Board at the Hotel Artis Vienna. Flight from Manchester Airport via Frankfurt. £660 Single supplement £88 Optional excursions to Schonbrunn Palace, the Spanish Riding School and the Schnapps museum
14 October 2014	Cruise to Cyprus, Malta and the Holy Land on P&O Aurora

### LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Now until 6 December	Channel Crossings: English & French Impressionism and Post-impressionism. Manchester Art Gallery
9-30 November	Singing in the Rain. Manchester Opera House
9 November	Stockport Symphony Orchestra Town Hall
12 November	NT Live The Habit of Art Stockport Plaza
15 November	La Boheme Stockport Plaza
15-19 November	People by Alan Bennett. Lowry theatre
18-23 November	The Mousetrap Buxton Opera House
19 November	RSC Screening. Richard II with David Tennant. Stockport Plaza
20 November	Le Corsaire Stockport Plaza
24 November	Organ concert with Nigel Ogden. Stockport Town hall
24 November	The Nutcracker Stockport Plaza
27 November	Study Day in Clitheroe. "Writing for Publication" with Tony Thornton, Editor of Sources magazine. Booking forms available from Sue Harlin
1 December	Gem Art Jewellery workshop. New Mills Spring Bank Arts centre. Booking required.
14 December	Stockport Symphony Orchestra Town Hall
15 December	The Nutcracker Buxton Opera House
15 December	Bach Christmas Oratorio. Royal College of Music
31 December	New Year's Eve Gala concert Buxton Opera House

## NE CHESHIRE REGION U3A SCIENCE DAY

10th September

Six members from High Lane U3A attended the Science day organized by Cheadle and Gatley U3A on behalf of the North East Cheshire Network. There were 95 participants who enjoyed in depth presentations exploring the creation and evolution of the Universe.



In the morning, Professor Ian Morison of Jodrell Bank gave a talk on the creation of the Universe (the Big Bang Theory) and how it has evolved. He explained scientists' latest theory that the Universe is actually expanding from nothing to infinity in 13 billion years!



After lunch, Professor Fred Loebinger of Manchester University spoke about the Inner Secrets of

the Universe – the story of elementary particle physics, and how Manchester scientists have played a prominent role in the latest discoveries. They have discovered the strange sub nuclear world of quarks, gluons and leptons. The talk showed how the subject has developed including the recent first signs of the Higgs Boson, and pointers to the future were reviewed.

The day revised much of my long forgotten physics knowledge and really got us thinking. The day ended with a series of interesting and intriguing questions from the floor.

Diane Saxon

## IT CORNER



### WHAT IS A MOOC?

MOOC is an acronym for Massive Open Online Course. These have been available in the USA for some time but are now appearing in the UK through an initiative known as Futurelearn. Courses are being developed by a consortium of Universities and organisations led by the Open University. Courses are normally of a few weeks duration and are free.

New courses are being added all the time. You can see what's available at

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses>

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## IT BUDDIES

Having recently purchased an Apple iPad I was attempting to find my way around it. U3A to the rescue - Pat found me an "IT buddy", Gordon, and thanks to him I am delighted to be making progress and it has opened up a whole new world.

How lucky we are to have such a great committee and a band of dedicated group leaders who help us to find new interests, revisit our favourite ones and acquire new skills. THANK YOU.

June Ogden

Members looking for help with IT or anyone who is willing to offer help should contact Pat Christopher.

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Thought for the day!

Thanks to Peter Kress for this – and many others.

MATHS

*I would like to be an accountant but you have to know a lot about maths.*

MATHS

*If it is less than 90 degrees it is a cute angel.*

**U3A ONLINE COURSES**

U3A offers both tutored and untutored courses. Tutored courses for autumn 2013 have now all started. The dates for the new year have not yet been published.

**Untutored courses can be started at any time.**

The list below shows what’s available at the moment.

- Digital imaging
- Garden history
- Creative writing: fiction
- Creative writing: poetry
- Write to good effect
- Writing for publication
- Italian art: 1400-1600 (level 1 - suitable for beginners)
- Artists of Spain (level 2 - requiring some knowledge)
- Venice and her artists (level 2 - requiring some knowledge)
- Visiting artists in Rome (level 2 - requiring some knowledge)
- Great Northern European Artists

**U3A NORTH WEST REGION SUMMER SCHOOL**

26-29 August 2014, Newton Rigg College, Penrith

A review of last year’s summer school will appear in the next edition of Third Age Matters. Be ahead of the game in the North West and make your enquiry for 2014 now with David Joseph on [davidbjoseph@btopenworld.com](mailto:davidbjoseph@btopenworld.com)

**Courses**

1. Art (Colour), Jacqueline Cartwright
2. Archaeology, Carol Allen
3. Creative Writing Maggie Smith
4. Digital Photography Ron March (NEW)
5. Geology Chris Arkwright
6. Music Gillian Russell (NEW)
7. A History of ideas through the fiction of 1961 with Meg Shaw (NEW topic).

Costs: full residential rate of £300 (£40 early bird discount) and day rate of £150 (£20 early bird discount). A £50 deposit by 31 January 2014 will attract the full discount rate

**QUIZ: know your philosophers**

The quiz for this edition has been designed by the Philosophy Group. There are 20 questions for you to think about. Answers please to Liam Canavan or the Editor by 30 November. There will be a small prize for the best score from a member who is not in the Philosophy group. In the event of a tie the winner will be drawn from all correct entries. The Judges’ decision will be final.

1. What does the word 'Philosophy' mean?
2. Which Scottish philosopher and economist appears on a £20 note?
3. Who is usually known as the Father of Western Philosophy?
4. Irish philosopher and novelist 1919-1999
5. What relation is Emma Freud to Sigmund Freud?
6. Which Greek philosopher slept in a barrel?
7. Who married Heloise?
8. Greek philosopher who founded The Academy
9. Which French philosopher wrote 'The Second Sex'?
10. Who was born in Latvia, and became the British Philosopher who wrote "The two concepts of Liberty"?
11. Who could often be heard at Speakers' Corner, was a prominent member of CND and won a Nobel Prize in 1950?
12. Who are these rather confused philosophers?  
a. NEEDS CATERERS c. RULER EAST JAPAN  
c. SCARF ON CABIN
13. Which German philosopher said 'What doesn't kill you, makes you stronger.'?
14. Which Greek philosopher first proposed a system of biological classification?
15. Which philosopher was a member of the English Parliament from 1766 to 1794, and wrote a book about the French Revolution?
16. Who developed the idea of falsifiability by pointing out that not all swans were white?
17. Which Danish philosopher broke off his engagement because he decided he was too melancholy for married life?
18. Which influential French philosopher studied the relationship between power and knowledge?
19. Which Jewish philosopher was excommunicated from his synagogue at the age of 23?
20. 19<sup>th</sup> century English philosopher, political economist and civil servant

## GROUP REPORTS

### ART GROUP



I would like to thank the group for carrying on during my sabbatical. Brian Burke has been brilliant as have those who organise refreshments for the meetings. Brian is finishing his term with a competition for everybody to do. Subject a Seascape using any medium. Everybody has to score the results of what has been done by others, and on the last week an exhibition of the work will be displayed and the winner announced. All good fun. A few new people have turned up to the group which is really good. The Autumn colours are coming now so lots of things to paint or draw now.

Come and join us.

Brian Chadwick

### BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 1 & 2

#### August Meeting:

“Paquita”. This month we enjoyed the full length ballet of “Paquita” noted for its intricate and difficult dance steps, it is very colourful with lots of comedy, beautifully performed by “Paris Opera Ballet” Choreographer-Pierre Lacotte and music Ludwig Minkus, making a very enjoyable afternoon.

#### September Meeting:

Prog 1 “Four Seasons” – Shanghai Ballet Co. We had a very mixed bag for this meeting. I found an unusual version of The Four Seasons. The dancing was superb and this was enhanced by the beautiful scenery. It was a different version from the Vivaldi

one; the music composed by “David Fang” was excellent and everyone was spellbound. I will be watching out for more from this company.

Prog 2 “Symphony in “D” by Joseph Haydn

This was a hilarious ballet performed by the “Nederland’s Dance Theatre”. The dancing was so clever and caused roars of laughter which proves that not all ballet has to be serious. The choreographer “Jiri Kylian” certainly has a good sense of humour and I will look for more of his work.

Prog 3 Behind the Scene at the RBC

I have found that my groups like informative programmes and they are all becoming very ballet knowledgeable. This programme is about what goes on behind the scenes as follows:-

1. “Jewels” Behind the scenes,
2. “Becoming a Soloist at RBC”
3. ”Mayling” a Jonathan Copeland master class.
4. “Nutcracker” Behind the scenes.

#### October Meeting:

Prog 1- Documentary “Lady of the Camelias” For our October meetings both groups enjoyed a Documentary of the making of “Lady of the Camelias” performed by the” Paris Opera Ballet” and everyone agreed that they would like to see the full length ballet at our November meeting.

Prog 2

Backstage Snippets from RBC

These snippets are very interesting and give a great insight into the hard work put into the performances of these ballets.

1. Backstage” Nutcracker-Chinese Dance”
2. “A Day in the Life of a Ballerina”
3. “Sleeping Beauty” – Carabosse
4. (Monica Mason- Master Class)
5. “Nutcracker Pas de Deux”
6. Fumi Kaneko & Nehemian Kish
7. (Jonathan Cope & Lesley Collier- Master Class)
8. “Sleeping Beauty”- extract
9. “Sleeping Beauty” (Behind the Lilac Fairy Costume)

Sheila Hall

## BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 3 & 4

28th August/12th September: We watched the American Ballet Theatre's production of Swan Lake. This is an excellent performance - my favourite - featuring Angel Corella and Gillian Murphy.

25th September/3rd October: This session featured the early days of the Royal Ballet. We saw two pieces choreographed in the 1930's by Ninette de Valois: Checkmate, based on a game of chess, and The Rake's Progress, which gave a very good account of the Hogarth cartoons of the same name. We also watched Les Patineurs, which was choreographed by Frederick Ashton in 1937 - the year in which he joined the Royal Ballet.

23rd October/7th November: These sessions will feature the Royal Ballet in La Fille Mal Gardée.

Meg Humphries

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## CHURCHES AND PUBS

### St Peter's Prestbury 4th September 2013



The Parish of Prestbury dates back to AngloSaxon times - probably to the seventh century. The church is most likely the fourth to have stood on this site. The third, the Norman Chapel, stands in the churchyard.

The main body of the church (the nave and chancel) was built from 1220 to 1230, only about 20 years after the completion of the Norman Chapel, to accommodate a large and wealthy parish. The South Aisle was added in 1310. The original North Aisle probably also dates from this time, but the Tower and West and South porches were added around 1480. The oldest part of the church is the Bell Tower, which today has eight bells, and is reputed to have the best ring of bells in the county.

38 members enjoyed an informative talk from the Churchwarden and an interesting tour. We ended the day with lunch at the Legh Arms, Prestbury.

Pat Thorne

### Christleton 2 October 2013

On an overcast October day we set out for the rural village of Christleton, located off the A51 within a few miles of Chester Cathedral. At St James' Church we were met by David Cummings, an enthusiastic local historian and retired Head Teacher of the village Primary school, who was to be our guide.



Recent research suggests a Church may have existed on the present site as far back as 3rd C when Christians fled Chester following Roman persecution. There have been a variety of buildings over succeeding centuries, initially of wooden construction and from 15th C in stone or brick. The sandstone tower, with eight bells from 1743, is all that remains from the first stone building constructed in 1484. During the English Civil War the church was occupied by the Parliamentarians who used the Tower as a look out point to spy on Royalist Chester. In a revenge attack Prince Rupert's forces destroyed the village in 1645 prior to the Battle of Rowton Moor, but leaving the Church relatively unscathed.

The present Church is a result of a major rebuild of the nave and chancel, following a partial roof collapse in 1873. The new building designed by William Butterfield was completed in 1876 replacing many of the previous Georgian features including 3 tiers of galleries, and raised the floor level by 2 feet.

There are numerous features of interest including a limestone font with a modern oak cover with unique designs; a Burleymen stick (forerunner of police); Royal Arms dating from the restoration of the monarchy in 1645; ten Charles Kempe windows; pulpit and lectern with 1607 Bible; metal screen and millennium window.

We ended our visit with lunch at the nearby Plough Inn.

Roger Drinkwater

## CRAFT & NEEDLEWORK GROUP

In the last few weeks we have been busy creating items for our annual sale at the November monthly meeting. These will include handmade Christmas cards for the special people in your lives, scarves and toys. We will also be having a raffle with proceeds going to the National Osteoporosis Society. One of the prizes will be this adorable Elizabethan mouse, lovingly made by Sonia Ellis.



Marlene Brooks

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## 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 pair's competition this year were Margaret Evans and Len Wilson. The trophy was handed over to them from last year's 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 6 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 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.

Margaret Evans

## DISCUSSION GROUP

On the 16th October the subject for discussion was the forthcoming referendum in Scotland. For this particular discussion we changed our usual format of not knowing the subject beforehand and instead came prepared knowing what the topic would be. Amy suggested both the subject and the format. Political observers have assumed that the question will take the form of "Should Scotland be an Independent Nation?"

As is usual with Very Important Questions there is a dearth of reliable information and lots of guesswork and 'informed speculation'. Defence Secretary Philip Hammond is reported as having said that all Army personnel, including the Scots Regiments, all Naval and R.A.F. personnel etc. with all arms, equipment and bases, are considered to be M.o.D. assets and in the event of Scotland becoming independent all such assets will be transferred to England. The Armed Forces contribute a substantial amount to Scotland's economy and Alex Salmond will be well aware of this. But will it happen? Or is it just part of the anti-independence campaign? The S.N.P. is claiming that the revenue accruing from the oil companies in the North Sea properly belongs to Scotland and will be a welcome addition to an independent Scotland's Treasury. They also want to join the EU and stay in the Sterling Area but as one member of the group pointed out these are mutually exclusive.

We also discussed the effect independence would have on the number of MPs in Westminster. It would result in Labour losing 41 seats; the Lib Dems will lose 11 seats, the SNP 6 seats and the Conservatives 1 seat. Currently Scotland receives £40 billion from the Treasury but only £27 Bn is raised in Scotland. We eventually had to agree that nobody knows what will happen; it is all speculation based on what the pros say and what the cons respond.

Jim McDermott

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## GARDENING GROUP

Poor weather and other activities prevented the advertised visit to Biddulph Grange. Instead a group of three enjoyed a light lunch and some retail garden therapy at Woodford Park garden centre.

## MARPLE BRIDGE AND MELLOR U3A OPEN GARDENING GROUP

The meeting in September was a busy morning with members bringing plants for the "Cutting Exchange", a hive of activity with snipping, chopping, potting up and potting on of plants in preparation for planting out next Spring.

Tatton Park and Jodrell Bank gardens were the destinations for the Group outing in October with the autumn colours of plants and trees to the fore and remaining undiminished despite some inevitable rain.

If you have an interest in gardening (even if you don't have a garden!) why not come along to our meetings and enjoy talks and demonstrations on a wide variety of horticultural topics – there is always something new to learn. Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except on "trip" days) at Marple Methodist Church, Church Lane, Marple. Cost is currently £1.50 per meeting which includes tea/coffee. 9.45 for 10 a.m.

Jean Parrish

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## GERMAN GROUP

We continue to meet most Fridays and have heard many interesting accounts of the travels and experiences of members of the group in recent months. Our reading pieces have included family problems and, recently, accounts of criminal activities which have enriched our vocabulary of underworld slang. We are now looking forward to our annual Christmas lunch in December to which all past members and spouses will be invited.

Marlene Brookes

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## HISTORY GROUP

Napoleon

This talk sought to dispel the myths surrounding Napoleon. Was he really the caricature depicted in so many comedy sketches as "The Little Corporal" with the "Napoleon complex" who said, "Not tonight, Josephine!" after a supper of Chicken Marengo?

Napoleon was born to an aristocratic Italian family in Corsica and quickly rose to prominence after the Reign of Terror as a brilliant military commander who inspired devotion in his troops. He won a series of victories which led to the break-up of the Holy Roman Empire and shaped the history of Europe and the USA for the next two centuries. At home, he initiated a number of reforms which spread to many other European nations, including freedom of religion for all faiths, reform of education, the establishment of a sewage system throughout France, metrification, the Code Civil. As a revolutionary, he disappointed many of his supporters, when he took the title of Emperor in 1804. Despite his victories on land, he was unable to win any sea battles against the British Navy, which he had aspired to join as a young boy.

His luck ran out when he marched on Moscow in 1812. Despite being victorious in every battle, he was eventually beaten by the Russian winter and out of his army of nearly half a million, only 10,000 returned unscathed. Despite further successes on the battlefield in Germany, he was defeated at the Battle of Leipzig in 1813 and eventually exiled to Elba, where in his year there, he opened up iron mines and reformed agricultural practices before escaping and being received in triumph in Paris. He next confronted his enemies at the Battle of Waterloo where he met his final defeat and was exiled to St Helena where he died in 1821.

Pam Curley

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## HOLIDAY AND VISITS GROUP

### Autumn Visit to London

A group of fifty one including some members from our partner U3As left High Lane early on Friday and made good time down to Windsor for our visit to Windsor Castle. After an introductory talk from one of the many guides stationed throughout the complex we were able to visit the magnificent State Rooms with the help of an excellent audio guide. Queen Mary's dolls house and a temporary exhibition



featuring Royal artists were also worth visiting and St Georges Chapel was certainly not to be missed.

Our base for the three nights was the Holiday Inn Heathrow where we were well looked after throughout our stay. We left early on Saturday for a very interesting and instructive visit to the Greenwich Observatory. Some made it down the hill to the Queen's House, now an art gallery, the National Maritime Museum or the waterfront, where the Cutty Sark is moored. After an early tea we were off to theatre land to see War Horse; a compelling subject - the futility and carnage of the First World War from the perspective of a horse, the puppetry was spell-binding.

Sunday morning saw us meeting a very knowledgeable Blue Badge guide outside the Natural History Museum as a long queue of visitors slowly made their way inside. Thanks to our guide and the expert driving of Bill our coach driver, we made our way through back streets to little known sites as well as past the more obvious buildings and areas such as The Houses of Parliament and round Trafalgar Square to view the statues and the blue cockerel on the fourth plinth. A highlight was a visit to a little known roof terrace above a new shopping complex in Cheapside, next to St. Pauls where we had magnificent views across the skyline.

We left the guide and coach for some free time just off The Strand. This is when the weather let us down and curtailed some people's plans. However the afternoon was pleasantly spent either enjoying the atmosphere and the music in Covent Garden or visiting one of the museums and galleries.



The final stop as we headed north was to Blenheim Palace. Although we spent four hours on the site we had to make choices as there was so much to see. A tired but contented group arrived back in High Lane about 9pm after a very enjoyable and full programme. Our heartfelt thanks to Sue Harlin for arranging the programme and who, aided and abetted by Eric and Margaret, made sure everything ran according to plan.

Louanne Collins

## MATINEE CLUB

Members have enjoyed recent visits to Educating Rita and Hello Dolly at the Lowry. Educating Rita saw Gillian Kearney and Philip Bretherton excel in the roles of Rita and Frank adeptly combining the seriousness of Rita's desire to improve her life with the humour of the play.

The next visit is to the Johann Strauss Gala Party at the Bridgewater hall with music and dancing from that era. The date is Sunday 2nd February at 3pm. We do not have exact prices as yet but tickets are around £27 and we are hoping to run a coach. Costs and details will be available at the next meeting.

Pat Whinnerah

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## PHILOSOPHY GROUP

The September meeting took a fresh look at existentialism. It was a lively debate as some of the group queried whether one really had a free choice which shaped their future self. It was argued that existentialism was centred on the individual and that the search for meaning in existentialism was the search for self. Some of the group agreed with the assertion that life is absurd, so without meaning it was up to each individual to make the best of it. The group also discussed the difference between existentialism and religion and whether, as existentialists argued, that no one needed an external standard to live by.

Finally some examples of existential decisions were given: to pursue further education, to get married, to get divorced, to have children, to emigrate or not, setting standards etc. All these decisions have an influence on the person we become as we journey through life.

The October meeting discussed a wide variety of questions and topics, some of which you will find in the quiz on page 5.

Liam Canavan

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## PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The first meeting of this reformed group saw six members discussing the merits of software packages for creating and viewing photographs and slide shows. We also held a competition on the theme of "Foreign Places", in which Diane Saxon claimed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place, with a striking shot of Cologne Station, and an evocative misty mountain view taken from the top of Hahnenkamm.



The topic for the October meeting was 'Flowers'. Walter took 1<sup>st</sup> prize for his photograph of a single yellow rose with Eric Smith taking second place for his photograph of crocuses. The theme for the November meeting is 'Autumn'.



The group is currently full but if you are interested please contact Walter Mason.

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## READING GROUP

The group has just finished reading *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn. This is the third novel by Gillian Flynn, a Chicago based author and former television critic. The book has been in the best seller lists in both the USA and the UK for many months. The central theme of the book is the story of Nick and Amy Dunne, a married couple living in New York City who have both lost their jobs in the recession. Amy goes missing on the day of Nick and Amy's fifth wedding anniversary. Initially we think she has been murdered and Nick becomes a suspect. However this is a long book and there are many twists and turns before we find out what has happened.

Reactions to the book from the group were mixed; most of the group enjoyed the book – a good read, page turner, clever concept and intriguing plot. However we didn't really like either Nick or Amy and some felt the book was overlong.

This month's book is *The Ingenious Edgar Jones* by Elizabeth Garner, a historical novel set in nineteenth century Oxford.

Sue Dintinger

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## SHAKESPEARE GROUP

After a number of history plays, we return to comedy with *The Merchant Of Venice*

### Synopsis

Bassanio needs money to woo Portia, heiress of Belmont, so asks his friend Antonio (merchant of Venice) for 3000 ducats. As all his money is tied up in ships, which are at sea, Antonio goes to the moneylender, Shylock (a Jew), who proposes that if the money is not repaid within 3 months, he may take a pound of Antonio's flesh.

Portia has 3 suitors so they must choose from 3 caskets the one that contains her portrait. 2 suitors fail but Bassanio succeeds and prepares to wed Portia. His friend, Gratiano and Nerissa (gentlewoman to Portia) also plan to marry.. Meanwhile, Shylock's daughter Jessica elopes with Lorenzo taking rings and ducats with her.

Shylock is furious about this and, on learning that Antonio's ships have "miscarried" demands his due. There follows a trial where Portia, disguised as a young lawyer, begs mercy from Shylock who refuses and rejects all offers of money. He is about to take his pound of flesh when Portia warns him that, according to the bond, he is not entitled to "one jot of blood". Baffled, he will take his 3000 ducats only to be told that as he conspired against a Venetian's life, his own life is forfeit. However, he is pardoned and allowed half his fortune on the pledge he becomes a Christian and bequeaths the money to Lorenzo and Jessica on his death. Tidings then arrive that Antonio's ships are safely come to port.

Steve Reynolds

## WALKING GROUP

### September walk

Sam and Irene Chappell took 15 to Rushton Spencer, for a 6 mile walk over to Dane Bridge and back. A light drizzle wet us at first, and left sections of the paths rather heavy, but the rain stopped as we skirted the River Dane, passed a stand of sheep skulls, and some tempting blackberries, and made a coffee stop. A sturdy metal footbridge gave a splendid view of a weir, as we progressed to the Dane Bridge troutery, and admired the fat trout for sale.

Then a steepish ascent towards Winkle Grange farm, with a lunch stop under magnificent beech trees giving a welcome rest. The route now followed pastureland on little-used field paths, past the site of Dumkins, before joining the well-used Gritstone trail down to Barleighford Bridge. There Sam and Irene fed us with sweets to help us up the climb, on a track which led directly to the village of Rushton Spencer. A short stretch of feeder canal for Rudyard Lake, and we arrived back close to the Knot Inn, which was a magnet for half our number. It had been an enjoyable walk, in spite of a humid mist blocking distance views, so Sam and Irene were thanked by all for their efforts.

Walter Mason

### October

Merlyn and Joyce took a small group of five on a 5½ mile walk ascending Bosley Cloud, and taking in some good paths, country lanes and the Macclesfield canal.

We met at the Timbersbrook picnic area car park, where Merlyn gave us a very interesting history of the mill that was previously on the site from the 1800s until it was demolished in 1966. We walked along a lane and found the footpath that took us to the summit of Bosley Cloud, observing some soaring buzzards on the way. At the top we paused for refreshments, and took in the splendid views. Descending across lanes and fields, past a fine crop of sweet corn, we arrived at the Macclesfield canal where we stopped for our packed lunch. We then had an easy walk along the canal towing path, observing an unusual painted cow at a farm, another lane with

some very poisonous looking fungi, then across some fields where we saw lots of farm animals. A lane took us back to the car park after a very pleasant walk.



Jeff Mortimer

### OCTOBER WEDNESDAY WALK REPORT



On a lovely bright morning, Richard and Susan Clark reprised their May Tuesday walk from the Davenport Arms, Woodford. This time a group of 16, enjoyed a tour of the flat pasture land surrounding the infant rivers Dean and Bollin, with a smattering of black and white halls, and a few wooded sections; and especially we enjoyed the end of the walk on the delightful footpath skirting Woodford aerodrome, and the perimeter of the Avro golf course.

It wasn't all joy, as several nights' heavy showers falling on poorly drained flood plains necessitated a few frantic scrambles, where pools and soggy grassland had blocked our way. However, we all appreciated the chosen route and the lack of hills – and the good food in the Davenport Arms (Thieves' Neck) afterwards.

Walter Mason

Please don't forget to send all contributions for the next newsletter to me at [newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk) by Friday 27 December 2013.  
Thank you

Diane Saxon

**HIGH LANE U3A COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS FOR 2014**

The Committee for 2014 to be elected at the AGM on 12 February 2014.

If you wish to nominate any member for the Committee please complete the form and return it to either Margaret McDermott or Sue Harlin by the date of the monthly meeting on 14 January 2014.

Cut: .....

COMMITTEE	NOMINEE	SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	NOMINATED BY	SECONDED BY
CHAIRMAN				
VICE CHAIR				
SECRETARY				
TREASURER				
MEMBER				