

## HIGH LANE U3A NEWSLETTER

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



Editor

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September 2011

### High Lane U3A 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Below is a photograph of June Gibbs (Secretary); Steve Reynolds (Chair); and Louanne Collins (Vice Chair) cutting the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake at the August meeting. All members in attendance were able to enjoy a slice of cake with their cup of tea. Entertainment was provided by the Choir, and three members gave interesting short talks on the following subjects:- “A Day In The Life (on an oil rig)”; Rural Living; and the “Development of Braille”.



Thanks to Eric Harlin for the photograph

## GRAND HAT PARADE – CHRISTMAS PARTY – 14TH DECEMBER 2010



Put your thinking cap on again, and start preparing another hat.  
Once again we are having a Grand Parade at the December Christmas Party.  
The theme this year will be “The Olympics”, ready for Summer 2012.

There are plenty of aspects to explore:- From

A “ATHLETICS”; B “BADMINTON”; C “CEREMONY” (OPENING AND CLOSING); D “DIVING”; E “ETHIOPIA”;  
F “FLAME”; G “GOLD MEDAL”  
.....TO.....U “UNION FLAG” (HOISTED MANY TIMES, WE HOPE!), V “VELODROME”, W  
“WEIGHTLIFTING”, X “X(EX)CITEMENT”, Y “YACHTRACING”, AND Z “ZAMBIA”.

Not to mention, colours of flags, competitor’s names, the myriad of individual sports!

**There will be a prize for the best hat!**

Any queries to Walter Mason

--ooOoo--

### GERMAN GROUP



We shall resume meetings on Friday 9th September after our summer break. We hope to arrange a meal out in the near future as our summer meal had to be postponed because of so many members' holidays.

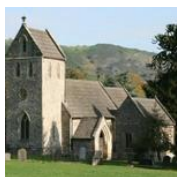
### NEEDLEWORK GROUP



We next meet on Thursday 15th September when we will make plans for the lead-up to Christmas.

Marlene Brookes

## Churches and Pubs Group - Visit to Ilam Church



On the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 36 members visited the Church of the Holy Cross at Ilam near Dovedale. This is a lovely old church set in rolling Derbyshire countryside. Eva, a church warden who is originally from Czechoslovakia but a local resident for over 30 years, welcomed our party and gave us the history of the church and the village.

There had been a church here since Saxon times, as evidenced by the blocked off Saxon doorway in the East wall, the wonderful stone font and the 10<sup>th</sup> century crosses in the churchyard. The church, given to Burton Abbey in 1004, was restored and extended several times before being seized by the Crown when Henry VIII broke with Rome and dissolved the monasteries in 1540.

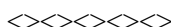
The whole estate was then given to the Port family who, together with two other local squires, financed major church restoration work and the rebuilding of St Bertram's Chapel in 1618. The Ports sold the estate in 1809 to Jesse Russell who embarked on major changes to the whole estate including the old hall and the village. Since then the estate has had several owners and it was finally given to the National Trust in 1935 and they lease the hall to the YHA.

The church which had its' last major restoration in 1855, contains many interesting and beautiful items including:-

- ⑩ St Bertram's tomb reputed to have been for the son of an 8<sup>th</sup> century Mercian king who renounced his Royal heritage and devoted himself to prayer and meditation after losing his wife and child to wolves.
- ⑩ The octagonal mausoleum on the north side containing the life sized white marble memorial to David Pike Watts, the father of Jesse Russell's wife.
- ⑩ The 17<sup>th</sup> century alabaster tomb of Robert Meverell and his wife (one of the two other local squires who helped the Port family restore the church in 1618).
- ⑩ Stained glass windows which added their rich hues to a general colour scheme of deep reds, greens and gold, the beautiful east window shows some of the Stations of the Cross.
- ⑩ Two Maidens Garlands which hang over the entrance to St Bertram's Chapel. They were made of paper by friends and family of deceased unmarried and often young women, then carried at their funerals and later hung over their pews. The custom largely died out about 200 years ago.
- ⑩ A small Hill organ was given to the church in 1860 and, having tried it out, was confirmed as still in tune by one of our members. The organ pipes were wonderfully painted in a multicoloured swirling design.

Leaving this fascinating church at about 12.15pm, we found our way to the Bluebell Inn on the main Ashbourne / Buxton road where we all enjoyed some liquid refreshment and a meal. Many thanks to Paul Kenneth for once again organising a most enjoyable day.

Mike and Margaret Snape



*In the 1400's a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence we have 'the rule of thumb'*

## **CROWN GREEN BOWLING SECTION (Annual Competition)**



On the 1st August, the U3A Crown Bowling section enjoyed their annual competition at the Conservative Club in High Lane. It was a full day starting at 10.30a.m until approximately 4.30 p.m. with a break for lunch. Everyone reported that the day was a great success, and we were also blessed with beautiful weather. We had 24 competitors and many non playing supporters came along too. Together with the help of Dave Lawton and Christine Lockwood, from the Conservative Bowling Club, who freely gave their time and expertise in arranging the order of play etc., and to the many people who assisted with refreshments and scoring throughout the day, the whole event went extremely well.

John Speakman was the overall winner of the day walking home with the trophy. Prizes were awarded to the winners of the remaining sections who were Geoff Snowdon, Geoff Fogg and Roy Holden. Four Booby Prizes were also awarded in each section.

Margaret Evans  
Group Leader

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### **Walking Group explore Hawkhurst Head and Whaley Moor**



On the June walk, 31 sets of boots joined Ruth and Dave Smith for a 5 mile adventure. As well as a good turn out of regular walkers, no doubt encouraged by our successful recent walking weekend, it was good to welcome new faces and boots. After an unexpected shower at the start, the clouds moved away and Mr Sun came out and so walking conditions were most pleasant. We started at Whaley Bridge railway station and followed our leader up to the reservoir, through wooded paths, farm tracks and over moorland. We stopped for lunch and were able to admire the views across the vale of Kettleshulme, we continued up towards the Moorside Hotel, but tragically the path turned off before we reached the main entrance – so no swift half or cup of coffee. This was the high point of the walk and from then onwards it was downhill. We had enjoyed views of Sponds Hill, Bowstones and Chinley Churn and had plenty of laughs and assistance over the many and varied stiles – one or two replicating an assault course. We were back to base by mid afternoon with time to get home and watch Andy Murray on Centre Court!!

Judith Ridgway

## Discussion Group



On the 24th August it was suggested by Amy Summers that the subject for discussion should be Law and Order with reference to the recent riots in London, Birmingham, Manchester etc.

Because of illness Amy was unable to attend the discussion. (But we did enjoy the cake she sent).

The riots started in London and the reason put forward by the media was that they were sparked off by an incident involving the police and a member of the public in which the civilian died. This was a little hard to believe given that the average rate of shootings in London of youths by other youths is five per week. It is so serious that a special group has been set up by Scotland Yard to deal with this sort of crime. We have been given various reasons by psychologists, psychiatrists, Bishops and other religious leaders, sociologists, political leaders and other "experts", but it seemed to us that perhaps greed, opportunism and the fact that there was nobody to stop them played a very important part. Add to this the fact that in a crowd the individual feels anonymous, he/she feels protected by the large numbers of the mob, the majority of them were wearing hoods anyway and so they experience a feeling of invulnerability. The destruction of property, vehicles and the use of petrol bombs was sheer wanton vandalism without reason or justification. Remember "Hug a Hoodie"? As usual, the media were quick to play the blame game and asked the silly question "Why didn't the police expect the riots and prepare accordingly?" Who do they think runs the Metropolitan Police Force? Mystic Meg? The use of the social networks, Twitter etc., Blackberry mobiles which communicate with other similar mobiles by encrypted links, meant that spreading news of the riots to other similarly minded idiots was easy and fast. It was a contagion that spread to other major cities and could have been much more serious than it was. What made these incidents stand out from previous riots was that the usual suspects were added to by the relatively large numbers of "ordinary" citizens who seemed to think that it was O.K. to join in the looting, even bringing their own transport. Our group could not suggest any solution which did not involve spending lots of money and increasing police numbers but we know that will not happen. We are sure that the 43 police forces in Britain will be giving this problem much thought and are sure to devise completely different tactics to deal with this totally unforeseen situation and will not be caught again.

Jim McDermott.

ooOoo

*This message was received by email and you may be interested. Ed*

An Inviting Opportunity from HOST

People come from all over the world to study at universities in the UK. Apart from gaining academic qualifications, they hope to immerse themselves in the life, language and culture of this country; only to find that the university is not the best place to achieve this. The 'real Britain' is found outside the campus, in local communities, and above all, in people's homes. You can get to know what makes a country tick by chatting to the natives, cooking and eating with them, asking their views, and seeing their views when they take you to their favourite local places. And in sharing their own culture with their hosts, students can make their countries come alive too. Hosting a student for one weekend, or at Christmas, or just for a day, makes a personal and meaningful contribution to international understanding and goodwill. U3A members make ideal hosts! If you would like to know more, please visit [www.hostuk.org](http://www.hostuk.org), or call HOST's local organiser, Frances Quirk, on 0151 924 6269.

HOST is a national charity founded in 1987 by the British Council, the Victoria League and the Foreign Office.

Hosting students is a voluntary activity.

HOST UK

Unit 8 Water House, 8 Orsman Road, London N1 5QJ

Telephone: 020 7739 6292 Fax: 0207 033 6539 [www.hostuk.org.uk](http://www.hostuk.org.uk)

## Ballet Appreciation Groups 1 & 2

In June and July the Ballet Groups enjoyed the following programmes:-

### Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> June

#### 1. The National Ballet Co. of Canada

“The Four Seasons” – Music by Vivaldi.

My interpretation of this ballet (for what it’s worth) is Love, Jealousy and Tragedy, which makes for a very unusual setting, (quite unique)

#### 2. The American Ballet Theatre

“Apollo” – Music by Stravinsky featuring Mikhail Baryshnikov and his 3 muses:

Calliope Muse of Poetry-Polyhymnia Muse of Mime-Terpsichore Muse of Dance  
(Very romantic)

“Who Cares” (Music by Gershwin) (not to be missed)

#### 3. The New York Ballet Co.

“Gaiete Parisiene” (this is a short documentary about the making of this ballet and shows the dancers practicing with the choreographers, there’s a peep in the backroom where all the quirky costumes are being made by hand, leading to a preview of the full dress rehearsal (absolutely fabulous).

### Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July

#### 1. The New York Ballet Co.

“Themes & Variations” - Music by Tchaikovsky-Suite No. 3-choreographer-Balanchine

“Square Dance Selection” - Music by Corelli (A contemporary piece cleverly danced)

“De Rosen Cavalier” – Music by R. Strauss (the fabulous staging and elegant evening dress made this ballet a favourite with both groups)

Selection from “Agon” – Music by Stravinsky-choreographer–Balanchine

Pas De Deux (Darcy Bussell dancing as a guest with the New York Ballet was the highlight of this selection of contemporary dance)

#### 2. The Royal Ballet Co.

“Tales of Beatrix Potter” (A sheer delight for all ages).



Sheila Hall

## KINDER WALK 12 JULY 2011



The 10 year anniversary walk was a real challenge. Of the 14 starters, several had never climbed Kinderscout before, and most of the rest had fading memories from their youth of a longish, but not too difficult a climb, nothing like Scafell Pike or Ben Nevis, for instance.

Forty or so years on, we discovered that the slopes of Kinder seemed to have got much steeper, distances longer, the paths stonier and rougher, and our limbs less mobile.

But... . But....., all but one of our group made it to Kinder Downfall and back, and the other got most of the way to the top; and in spite of legs feeling a little jelly-like on the return descent, and the threat of stiffness for the day after, the walk was voted a big success.

On a breezy, bright day, perfect for the occasion, we rediscovered the wide-ranging and lovely views, the fascinating gritstone rock formations, and the majesty of the Downfall amphitheatre, which have made Kinderscout such a favourite mountain for so many. Even though, on the day, the infant river Kinder was merely a trickle, and the reservoir looked sorely in need of rain.

We were all able to take massive pride in our ability to make it to the top – and we celebrated High Lane U3A's 10 years with a sherry toast, proposed by Chairman Steve Reynolds.

An hour or so later, relaxed, and moving more freely on the gentler return down the wooded Kinder valley back to Hayfield, the fourteen walkers seemed able even to forgive the walk leader (myself), for devising such a devilish 8.6 mile walk with 1700 foot of ascent for the 10 year challenge – at least, I think they did!

Walter Mason

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This year we're going to experience four unusual dates.

1/1/11, 1/11/11, 11/1/11, 11/11/11 and that's not all...

Take the last two digits of the year in which you were born - now add the age you will be this year,

The results will be 111 for everyone in whole world.

## WALK REPORT – 27th July 2011



Richard and Susan Clark found a truly Cheshire walk to gladden the hearts of the several Cheshirites in our group. 22 members were led past several attractive meres, through a variety of crop fields and lush meadows, into the reaches of the Capesthorne estate of the Bromley Davenports, and by the ancient black and white Siddington church – made famous by the extrovert “corn dolly” speaker and farmer Raymond Rush – due to pay us another visit in December.

We started in warm sunshine by Redesmere, and after 6 ½ enjoyable miles, returned there as the cloud thickened, to a welcome ice cream van, who did a roaring trade!

The only downside had been the number of stiles and gates, none of them individually difficult, but combining to slow our passage and spread the group. But on the way, we had been able to marvel at a giant puffball, sneak up on a resting buzzard, and admire a country bowling green, that could whet the appetite of any of our U3A bowlers. So Richard and Sue got a big thank you afterwards from our group.

Walter Mason

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### Family History Group

#### Programme Autumn 2011

House meetings will be held at the normal meeting time at Sue Harlin’s house. Other meetings will be held in the computer room at Brookside Primary School. All meetings run 4.30 – 6.30pm.

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|-----------------|--|
| September 15th. | House meeting – Getting Started.                             |
| September 22nd. | Computer room – Free BMD                                     |
| October 6th.    | Computer room – Civil Registration and ordering Certificates |
| October 20th.   | House meeting or Visit – details to follow                   |
| November 3rd.   | Computer room – details to follow                            |
| November 17th.  | Computer room – details to follow                            |
| December 1st.   | Computer room – details to follow                            |
| December 8th.   | House meeting – keeping records and storing information      |

The course fee will be £14 payable in advance

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

--ooOoo--

All copy for the next newsletter to be sent to the Editor by Saturday 29th October.  
Thank you



***This item was missed off the September 2011 newsletter, please accept my sincere apologies. Ed***

## **BALTIC CRUISE**



### **July 7th --21st**

Ports- Kristiansand, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Helsinki, St. Petersburg, Travemunde and Oslo.

### **Reminiscences of some of our members**

#### **Staying on board whilst in port**

What is it like to be on a cruise ship when most of the passengers are ashore? Somewhat surreal; no queuing, no listening to boasting of previous cruises; just space everywhere, a superbly appointed Marie Celeste.

Occasionally there is a lunch to remember! Sitting next to a well spoken gentleman in his sixties with a well groomed attentive younger companion. Delightfully coiffed, expertly manicured and discreetly made up, flashing a wedding ring and a diamond engagement ring. The surprise came when this vision spoke in an unmistakably baritone voice! Meals apart, little seems to happen. The energetic indulge in various activities, the others pass the time reading and dozing.

June Griffiths.

#### **One of the ports**

Every port has a charm but one which is different is Travemunde in Germany. Not many people seemed to have heard of this place and I certainly hadn't. I believe it is a resort where many Germans take a holiday and they refer to it as their Riviera. I found it a most pleasant place and somewhere which could be a good centre for a short holiday. Three of us took the local train to Lubeck which is a UNESCO World Heritage site. This is a lovely town with attractive mediaeval buildings, a Cathedral, market place with a band and most importantly, the Cafe Niederegger where there was the most sumptuous display of cakes, which of course we sampled. This cafe and shop is famous for marzipan and there were marzipan sculptures in the window. As the ship left Travemunde the quay side was lined with locals seeing us off. A really lovely day.

Pat Gorie.

### **Stockholm and How to Peel a Swede**

Picture a lovely sunny day and five ladies of a certain age viewing the lovely architecture of the city. We had visited Gamla Stan (the old town) with its mediaeval streets, had our morning coffee, watched the Changing of the Guard, and listened to a brass band. Ambling along to what looked like an interesting church we paused on a bridge over a canal and what a sight for sore eyes we beheld! There was a bearded young man on a pontoon stripping his clothes off. Oh what a treat!! Down to his snowy white undies he went (so this is part of their culture we thought; do they not have mod cons in their homes?) He swam around for a short time, ducking and diving and then out he came. He proceeded to take off his undies! My goodness, it was enough to give someone of our age palpitations, some of our ladies could not take their eyes off the spectacle before them. Oh, such happy memories it brought back! Or did it?

June Gibbs.

### **Future Holiday Information**



**May 2012** - Tuscany - Names and deposits taken September/October/November meeting.

**AUGUST 18<sup>th</sup> 2012**

**14 nights on P. & O. ORIANA to NORWAY and ICELAND**

Contact Margaret McDermott for information on booking,

**September 2012 - Cardiff** - Names and deposits to be taken at January 2012 meeting