

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

## FROM THE CHAIR

I can't believe that I have been chairman for almost a year now. It has been a hectic time and I have learned a lot. I am so grateful to the officers and committee members who have supported me. In particular I would like to thank Pam Curley, who finishes her term as Secretary next month, for the efficient and cheerful way in which she has performed her duties.

There is a lot of work in running meetings and events smoothly and we could do with a few more helpers at times. If you would be willing to assist in the preparation and clearing up of the hall for example, please let us know. Together we can continue to make High Lane U3A the exciting and vibrant group that it is.

With best wishes for 2020  
Sheila Harrop

## MEMBERSHIP 2020

Your membership is due for renewal in February 2020. The Committee is pleased to report that the membership fee for next year is being maintained at the current fee of £6 or £9 to include a subscription to Third Age Matters, the Third Age Trust magazine. You will receive five issues of the magazine delivered to your door containing a variety of interesting articles and ideas.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP RUN YOUR U3A?

New Committee members will be elected at the AGM. Please think about joining the committee. It is not an onerous task; it is a good way to get to know more of our members and can be rewarding and enjoyable. The Committee meets around six times per year and takes on the tasks of organising meetings and speakers, managing groups, organising social events, liaison with National Office and other matters.

If you are interested in joining the Committee you will find a Nomination form on the final page of this newsletter. Please seek nominations from members, sign the form and give this to the Chairman or Secretary at or before the January meeting.

## GROUP NEWS

A number of new groups started last year but we are always looking for new ideas and new groups. Please think about how you can help. Organising a group is not onerous; we find that many groups share the work between the members who each organise a session.

Please talk to Doreen Scotte, our groups organiser, about any ideas you may have.

## IN THIS ISSUE:

November meeting	Card making
Christmas Party	Choir
Mindfulness	Churches and Pubs
The Big Sing	Cinema
Programme for 2020	Current Affairs
Travel events	German
Social events 2020	History
U3A Magazine	Kurling
<b>Group reports</b>	Opera Appreciation
Ballet appreciation	Photography
Ballroom dancing	Quiz
Bridge	Reading
Canasta	Travel
	Walking

## IMPORTANT - GROUP LEADERS

Please would all group leaders prepare a report on last year's activities for the AGM. If you cannot attend please ask someone in your group to read the report or send a copy to Pam Curley.

## FROM THE EDITOR

Items for the newsletter from members are always welcome so 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 March 2020 edition. Please get your contributions to me by 28 February.

## NOVEMBER MEETING

### WORKING WITH ORANGUTANS IN THE RAINFOREST OF BORNEO by Sarah Lionhart

The wild orangutan population is under threat from extensive habitat loss and land use change due to logging, palm oil production, mining and agricultural expansion. Deforestation is the most serious threat to these animals and over the last three decades, an estimated 80% of irreplaceable orangutan habitat has been lost. Other threats to orangutans include illegal hunting for meat and capture for the exotic pet trade.

Sarah recently visited a sanctuary in Borneo where she looked after injured and orphaned orangutans. The lucky ones have been rescued, rehabilitated and finally released. However, some of these animals are so deeply traumatised that they cannot be rehabilitated into the wild. She told us that adult males are the most solitary and only socialise with sexually receptive females for brief courtship. Females usually give birth to their first offspring at 15-16 years old – with the interval between births on average 8 years, which makes them extremely slow at reproducing following a gestation of about 9 months. Infants are dependent on their mothers for the first 2-5 years of their lives.

Apparently, the Borneo Government does not have any funds to help this sad situation and there seems to be no way to stop the extinction of these animals. The only help we can give is to donate and not buy anything that contains palm oil.

June Christon

---

## MINDFULNESS

Also at this meeting, Sue Roworth talked to us about Mindfulness. What is Mindfulness? Jon Kabat-Zinn, sometimes referred to as the Godfather of modern mindfulness, defines it as “The awareness that emerges, through paying attention on purpose, in the present moment, and non-judgementally, to the unfolding of experience moment by moment”.

Many U3As run Mindfulness groups and there is a U3A subject advisor. If you are interested in being part of such a group please speak to Sue or Doreen Scotte.

## DECEMBER MEETING: CHRISTMAS PARTY



There was a very festive feel at the U3A Christmas Party on Wednesday. It all looked very inviting. As well as beautifully laden tables we had Christmas crackers which contained the usual jokes to make us groan. We were entertained by Paul Earl who played and sang songs of the sixties and also took requests. Some of our more agile members got up to dance to the music.

The tables were filled with sandwiches and cakes which helped us to concentrate on the quiz, which our table was very fortunate in winning! A thank you to the members of the choir who led us in the singing of carols.

I would like to thank the committee and all others who were involved in preparing the room and tidying up afterwards. A lot of planning is needed beforehand to make things run so smoothly. A great start to the Festive Season.

Lynda Heathcote

---

## THE BIG SING 2019

This event, held in Liverpool in September was a huge success. It was attended by over 120 members and led once again by Stuart Overington, supported by pianist Tom Pieczora. Stuart is a teacher, conductor and composer who works with choirs of all ages and particularly with the Halle Youth Choir. Stuart has already agreed to come back next year for another Big Sing, so keep an eye out for more information in due course.

---

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### 2020 MEETINGS

This year's meetings start on 8 January 2020 with a talk by Ben Alexander entitled 'Stockport Hydro'. The February meeting is our AGM.

8 January	Stockport Hydro Ltd: Ben Alexander
12 February	AGM
11 March	Last laugh of the railway king: Geoff Scargill
8 April	Avoiding re-offending: Eddie Tarry (HMPS)
13 May	Family Secrets: Caroline Melliar-Smith
10 June	Bang up the elephant: Folk duo - Fools Gold
8 July	Masters of mirth: Mike Storr
12 August	My life in the Special Branch: Rod Devereux
9 September	Children's air ambulance: Sharon Evans
14 October	Barrow to Baghdad and back again: Philip Caine
11 November	History and making of walking sticks: Geoff Williams
9 December	Christmas Party Christmas and its customs: Patrick Harding

### SOCIAL EVENTS

The Committee is planning your social events for the year. The annual lunch will once again take place in the Spring although the date is yet to be confirmed.

Our annual group leaders meeting will take place as usual in the summer and we are looking at a wine tasting evening later in the year.

If you have ideas for social events that you would like us to arrange please talk to any Committee member.

### FORTHCOMING TRAVEL GROUP EVENTS

Contact: Margaret McDermott or Ruth Smith

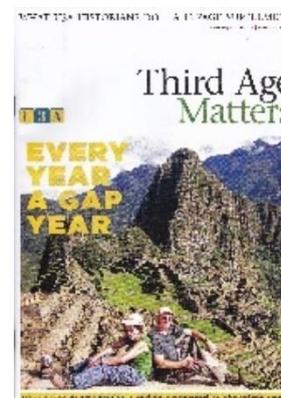
1-6 June	HAMPSHIRE. 5 Nights. Holiday Inn Winchester. £587 + entrance fees DEPOSIT £50 January meeting
26-31 Aug	RHINE CRUISE TO SWITZERLAND FULLY BOOKED. Waiting list
2 <sup>nd</sup> week September	IRELAND
Early October	LINCOLN
<b>Day visits – details to follow</b>	
May	SHIBDEN HALL AND HALIFAX
July/Aug	CROXTETH HALL AND LIVERPOOL

### U3A EVENTS

12 Feb	Active Living. Friends meeting house, Liverpool. Details at <a href="https://u3asites.org.uk/files/n/north-west/docs/activelivingflyer.pdf">https://u3asites.org.uk/files/n/north-west/docs/activelivingflyer.pdf</a>
12 March	Close Encounters of the Animal Kind. National Gallery. London. Cost £25. Book via National office.
30 March	Discovering Children's Literature. British Library, London. Cost £24
3 June	National U3A day

### U3A MAGAZINE: THIRD AGE MATTERS

Articles and information of interest to U3A members. Just £3 for the next five issues delivered to your home address. The magazine has a new editorial board comprised of U3A members which will meet five times a year and be actively involved in the production of Third Age Matters.



See Margaret McDermott to put your name on the magazine list.

## GROUP REPORTS

### BALLET APPRECIATION

27th Nov / 5th Dec

We saw the Royal Ballet's 2016 performance of Giselle. This was the third time we have seen this production (over a period of seven years and with a different cast each time). It was the best yet.

Marianela Nuñez and Vadim Muntagirov were outstanding in the principal roles.

Our next meeting will be late January.

Meg Humphries

---

### BALLROOM DANCING

The year ended with Walter playing music and demonstrating the Tango Medis Corte, a step originating with past instructor Danny Bell. Otherwise the group got into the Christmas spirit with appropriate music for our last ballroom of 2019, and a week later we joined the Sequence Dancing group for a splendid end of year party afternoon.

Walter Mason

---

### BRIDGE

All our three Bridge groups are thriving. The Monday group plays Duplicate bridge each Monday at High Lane Village Hall. The Wednesday group plays Duplicate bridge each week at the Hazel Grove Bowling and Tennis Club. There are a few spaces for experienced Duplicate players at this group. The third bridge group plays a mixture of Chicago and Duplicate on Thursdays at Woodside Tennis Club.



Please contact the group leaders for more information. You can also find out more on our Bridge website <http://www.bridgewebs.com/highlaneu3a/>

---

### CANASTA

In the lead up to Xmas the Canasta group was depleted by illness, holidays and one member who took it upon himself to make the turkey extinct by eating as many Xmas dinners as possible. Our Xmas meal therefore was a small affair with partners; very enjoyable thanks to everyone who attended and our hosts at the Royal Oak, Nick and Dot with a special mention for the chef. We reconvene in January in a new decade still at the Royal Oak on Tuesdays at 7pm. For those who have, like me, stealth ninja figures we meet about 5.45pm to eat.



Happy New Year

Les Birks

## CARD MAKING

The card making group continues to meet on the first Thursday of every month and is pleased to have recently welcomed two new members to the group. We've also had another U3A member come along to a couple of meetings just to see whether it is something she'd like to do more regularly, and that reminded me to mention that if anyone with no or very little card making experience is thinking of taking up this wonderful hobby, I'd be happy to spend a couple of hours teaching them the basics so they feel more confident about coming to our regular meetings.

As you might guess, we've spent most of our time during the last few months making Christmas cards - here are photos of just a few of them:-



Sadly we have lost one of our long standing members - Elaine Porter. One of Elaine's favourite techniques was creating backgrounds with blending inks, and she was particularly adept at getting the shading just right. The Christmas card featuring the snowman was designed and made in her honour.

If you are interested in coming along to one of our card making meetings, or would like to learn some of the basic techniques, or have any other questions, then please do get in touch.

Christine Fox (co-leader)

---

## CHOIR

Heartfelt thanks to those of you who joined friends and family to support the recent U3A choir concert, which took place at Windlehurst Methodist Church on December 14th.

The concert was a truly festive occasion, with the church lit by myriads of tiny candles and filled with joyous music. Christmas pieces were performed by the choir and the Phoenix Ringers, who added a special magical touch to the event. The audience seemed to enjoy being invited to sing along to some well-known carols and feedback was really positive. In fact the church were so delighted they invited us to do another carol concert next year there and then!

The proceeds from the concert, which, we're delighted to report, amounted to £410, were given to the church and the choir's director for two very deserving charities - the Wood Street Mission and The Wellspring. So an enjoyable and successful event.

If you'd like to join this lovely, welcoming choir we rehearse on Friday mornings from 10 am to 12 noon at High Lane Village Hall - any budding tenors and basses would be especially welcome!

Julie Sutton

## CHURCHES AND PUBS

### St Matthew's Church Hayfield: November 2019.



Our visit this month took us to a church quite close to home in the village of Hayfield. We arrived to a welcome of coffee and biscuits followed by two interesting talks about the history of St Matthew's by Sylvia and John.

From the time of William the Conqueror the land around Hayfield grew in importance, mainly for hunting purposes and in 1405 Henry 1V commissioned the building of a small chapel in the village incorporating 12 oak trees from the neighbouring forest. At that time wealthy families in the area bought and paid rent for a pew in the church to aid with its upkeep and to retain a priest. In the early 1800s a devastating flood washed away

most of the church and also the churchyard resulting in bodies being swept away into the neighbouring area.... a grisly sight indeed!

The church was neglected for many years until with the population growth in the area the church was rebuilt in 1818 at a cost of £2500 and is what we see today. Inside the church are many stained-glass windows paid for by local inhabitants. The sanctuary is much as it would have been in the days of the early church in terms of shape. The tower was built from two types of stone and houses the six bells and on the outside the clock. Two box pews have been retained on the ground floor and upstairs in the gallery there are similar pews. The pulpit at the time of the rebuild would have been a three-tiered affair so that the priest was able to see the congregation on the gallery level. Outside the windows of the original church can still be seen and although the church is situated on a small plot there is a lovely remembrance garden.

Lunch this month was at the Sycamore pub in Birch Vale and was enjoyed by all. Thanks again to Paul and Barbara

Lynn Arnold.

### Christ Church, Woodford 4 December

The last visit for this year took us just down the road to Christ Church Woodford. We were greeted with tea, coffee and biscuits by Elaine, church warden and Heather the church historian. After our drinks we moved into the church itself. Looking at the church from the outside it does not inspire but once inside it is something different.

The church was, originally, to be built on land belonging to Perran's farm in Dean Row. There was a disagreement on the site for the church and eventually it was decided to build the church in its present position location on land farmed by William Shatwell on Woodford road. The church became a parish, from former chapel of Christ Church in Prestbury parish.



Between 1837 & 1839 it was decided to build the church and in 1841 the church was completed. It is of simple design built of brick with stone used only for rectangular, mullioned windows and other architectural features. In the first days the interior of the church was very bare. The western half being filled with forms and at the west end, in the gallery, stood a small organ. In December 1896 renovation work was needed as the woodwork was decaying and the foundation of the northwest angle of the building was giving way. In addition to the renovation the church was enriched at this time by the gift of five stained glass windows and a wealth of carved woodwork. The church is well worth a visit specially to see all the woodcarvings and stained-glass windows.

After our visit we crossed the road to The Davenport Arms for our Xmas lunch which was very enjoyable and a little cosy.

Thanks go to everyone who has supported the group this year and helped by giving people lifts. We hope to start again next year in April.

Paul and Barbara Kenneth

---

## CINEMA

Our chosen film for the month of November was "Official Secrets", a film based on true events.

Katharine Gun, a translator at GCHQ came across highly sensitive information which she leaked to the press in a futile attempt to halt the Iraq war. With shots of contemporary newsreel and a sterling performance from Keira Knightley as the leading character, it was an engrossing film which was much enjoyed by members and gave us plenty to think about.

Sheila Harrop

---

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### November meeting

Several members were unable to attend so we were a very small group. We started with a discussion about Prince Andrew's friendship with the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. We thought that his BBC interview showed his lack of concern for the victims and that he should have ended contact with Epstein as soon as he was convicted. We considered that he should withdraw from public duties and this has now been confirmed.

The floods in Yorkshire and other parts of the country have been disastrous. Apparently between 2001-14 two hundred thousand houses have been built in flood risk areas. Planning permission should not be given for this in future and councils should no longer allow this to continue even if it raises much needed revenue. Help for the residents appeared to arrive very late and they need far more support from the Government.

The Office for National Statistics says that old age no longer begins at 65 and everyone should work until they are 70. We thought that this depends on the job as manual work may make this impossible. Some people are not well prepared for retirement and find that they prefer to be at work even after seventy as after a lifetime of full employment they miss the everyday companionship.

One member of the group mentioned a report concerning a parent who was considering having her ten year old child baptised as a Catholic so that she could apply for a place at a state grammar school. We thought that in principle this was wrong but if it came down to the personal we would probably think differently.

Hilary Clinton thinks that Russia had an input in the Brexit decision and says that the Government should produce a report on Russian activities in this country. We agreed that this should be done but were wary of any foreign nationals interfering, be they Russian, American or anyone else.

The next meeting will be January 15th.

Margaret McDermott

---

## GARDENING

There was no meeting this month, but names have been collected for our January 22nd meal at the Deanwater.

Walter Mason

---

## GERMAN

On Friday, 13th December the German Group celebrated Christmas early at the Wycliffe Hotel where 18 of us enjoyed an excellent meal with the usual first-rate service.

It has been a very successful year for the group with new members who have added interesting experiences of life in Germany including life as a military policeman in pre-wall Berlin. We were very sad to hear of the death of June Gibbs who attended the group for several years and who took part in all our city breaks and many exchanges. She will be much missed by those who knew her, both here and in Germany.

Marlene Brookes



## HISTORY

### November meeting

The theme of this meeting was the continuation of our previous meeting which was that of religions. At this meeting, Irene Taylor presented Buddhism and Pauline Price presented Quakers.

Pam Curley

---

## KURLING

Kurling continues to flourish and we meet after each monthly meeting. The group is full but if you wish to put your name down for the future please see Paul or Barbara.

---

## OPERA APPRECIATION

**6th / 11th November:** We saw the Royal Opera in a performance of Andrea Chenier, recorded in 2015. Giordano's opera is set during the French Revolution and features some very dramatic music. There was a very fine performance from Jonas Kaufmann in the title role.

**4th / 9th December:** As a change from tragedy, we watched the New York Metropolitan Opera in a production from 2011 of Rossini's Le Comte Ory. This comic opera is set during the crusades. The wicked Count Ory manages to gain entry to a castle where men are banned, by disguising himself and his men as nuns. They then raid the wine cellars and get drunk. Luckily, the Crusaders return and all ends well.

Next on the agenda is a recent performance of La Traviata.

Meg Humphries

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

The November competition of “Leaves” was again a success for Jeff. First equals Jeff– Lyme Park; Jeff – Marple Canal; Derek’s shot of Houseplant leaves was third.



We then spent some time discussing plans for next year, which include preparing a calendar for 2021.

Walter Mason

**QUIZ**

The quiz group has had another successful and active year. As well as our regular meetings we have participated in the Greater Manchester inter U3A quiz and created quizzes for various U3A events.

Our November meeting was led by Monica who once again tested our brains and memories with a range of topics and questions. Our refreshment activity was two lists’; one of famous people’s real names for us to identify the name by which they were famous and the second of famous of infamous addresses.

Our final activity for the year was the quiz of 2019 which follows. Good luck.

Diane Saxon

**QUIZ OF 2019**

How well do you remember 2019?

January	Who was the 97 year old famously involved in a car crash?
February	Who won the Academy Award for Best Actress?
March	Where did anti-government protests start against an extradition bill?
April	Which horse won the Grand National for the second consecutive year?
May	The writer of ‘The Tiger who came to tea’ died this month. What was her name?
June	Who was welcomed on a 3 day state visit?
July	Who did the England football team lose to in the semi-final of the FIFA Women’s World Cup in Lyons?
August	What is the name of the reservoir near Whaley Bridge that threatened to flood the town?
September	Who collapsed after 178 years in business?
October	What was climbed for the last time?
November	Where was the Pizza Express cited in Prince Andrew’s defence?
December	Who was announced as the new Governor of the Bank of England?

How did you do? Answers are on page 13.

## READING

Our book for November was THE RIDDLE OF THE SANDS by Erskine Childers, generally regarded as the first spy novel, written in the early years of the 20th century. For some of us there was perhaps a little too much about boats but it was an exciting story and we learned a lot about sandbanks and tides in the North Sea. Ironically, the extremely patriotic Childers was later executed for treason in 1922.

We completed our year with a Christmas party where members enjoyed good food and drink and contributed to a session of readings of poetry and prose with winter and Christmas themes, including works by Dylan Thomas, Thomas Hardy, John Julius Norwich and Shakespeare among many others.

Our book choice for January is PORTERHOUSE BLUE by Tom Sharpe which some of you might remember from the dramatization on ITV in the nineties, an extremely funny novel set in a Cambridge College.

Marlene Brookes

---

## TRAVEL

### Renishaw Hall

An excellent day was had by all who were fortunate enough to travel to Renishaw Hall, decorated as for Christmases Past. Renishaw Hall is the family home of Alexandra Sitwell whose family have owned the house for almost 400 years. The history of the family is filled with writers, innovators and eccentrics. Unsurprisingly, the house is a treasure trove of art and boasts a very impressive library.



On arrival we were served coffee and mince pies and after the tour we had, perhaps, the first of many turkey lunches and Christmas puddings. Excellent Christmas fayre. The weather was kind so some of us ventured into the Italian gardens. Must come again in the summer.

Margaret Glynn

---

## WALKING

### Autumn Trip 25th - 28th October 2019 Northern Lake District

Twenty walking group members enjoyed this three night stay at Derwent Bank, a large country house on the shores of Derwent Water at Portinscale near Keswick, Cumbria.

Our visit is summarised as follows.

#### Friday 25th October. Derwent Water and Cat Bells. 4.3 miles

The group met at Derwent Bank at midday after a dry cloudy morning travelling. David Burke led a circular walk, initially along an excellent path which runs right around the wooded shores of Derwent Water, later ascending to the surrounding lower fells of Cat Bells which provided panoramic views of the lake and surrounding fells. Unfortunately, at the start of the walk the weather started to break, light rain became progressively more serious throughout the walk and by the time we got back to the house we were soaked! Fortunately our spirits were raised by afternoon tea and cake, after checking in.

Saturday and Sunday walks were led by HF Holiday walk leaders:-

### **Saturday 26th October Glenderaterra and Latrigg**

**9.5 miles.**

The rain had gone and conditions improved as the day progressed. The walk in a nutshell: From Threlkeld, ascend the lonely valley of Glenderaterra Beck before turning south to the stunning viewpoint on top of Latrigg. This is a knockout walk for views across Derwent Water from the slopes of Lonscale Fell.



### **Sunday 27th October. Pooley Bridge to Aira Force**

**7 miles**

A bright day with sunny intervals. The walk started from Pooley Bridge and joined the Ullswater Way south along the panoramic balcony path beneath Gowbarrow Fell eventually arriving at the spectacular Aira Force waterfall. We then took a cruise on Ullswater to Glenridding from where our coach transport picked us up

### **Monday 28th October**

Check out day. We all did our own thing. It was a beautifully sunny day, a cloudless blue sky, crystal clear visas highlighting the magnificent autumn colours (payback for Friday afternoon).

David Burke

### **30th October 2019. Castleton and Hope valley**

We were fortunate that the recent wet weather had passed and a bright sunny cool autumn day attracted 25 walkers. This 5 mile flat walk was a chance to admire the beauty of the Dark Peak and surrounding hills without climbing them!

The group met at High Lane and shared cars for the drive to Castleton where we parked below Winnats Pass. Starting from the visitors' centre we followed the River Peakshole as it weaved its way through the small streets passing two small water powered mills now converted to houses. Peakshole river exits from Peak cave and the walk would later follow this river again on our return. We turned off the quiet country lane at the training and conference outdoor centre heading on field paths towards Hope. Along the route we watched a group of young children from the outdoor centre on a high zip wire and then passed Losehill Hall which is now a hotel, spa and YHA. Good field paths led us to the footbridge over the Hope Cement works railway line and then to Killhill Bridge for a group photo. We joined a path alongside the River Noe passing the old Hope mill and ruined water wheel before reaching the main road into Hope.

Returning, our route passed behind Hope's St Peters 14th century church and a very short incline "mostly flat" led to field paths back to Castleton. The paths followed the River Peakshole again on the opposite side of the valley. Lunch was taken near an oxbow of the river under autumn clad tree canopy.

Merlyn gave some history of the area, Pindale lead mine and the 90 year celebration of Hope Valley Cement works.

Despite the past days heavy rain most paths were firm and good except for two wall stiles with deep mud and ponds which gave us a challenge. All enjoyed the walk and thanked the leaders.

Merlyn and Joyce Young

### 27TH NOV 2019 Bollington Area

The walk was extremely well supported with 25 walkers in spite of the rainy forecast. Conditions under foot were not good with all the rain we have had over the last few weeks. This together with the closure of a section of canal towpath necessitated a slightly modified route to avoid the worst of the mud and the closed section of towpath, so the route by and large used established tracks and quiet lanes starting from Bollington carpark next to the cricket ground.

The first stretch consisted of a section of The Middlewood Way as far as Brookledge Lane Bridge, referred to on older maps as 'Dangerous Corner'. Apparently so the story goes this was where the overhead cable cages carrying stone from Styperson Quarry to Stypeson Saw Mill had to make a 90 degree turn, resulting in some of the stone falling out of the cage with potentially nasty consequences. After walking a short section of canal towpath plus a few yards on Sugar Lane, we entered Styperson Park, also known as Adlington Quarries and Mines where coal mining and quarrying began about the middle of the 18th century. When the Macclesfield canal opened in 1831 it enabled both stone and coal to be transported more easily. Styperson Blue stone, an excellent paving material, was mainly destined for London. A minor detour led us to the remains of foundations of the cable system towers at the head of Styperson Pool where we took our coffee stop.

After a short uphill section through the woods we came out onto Long Lane where on a good day there are splendid views from here over to Alderley Edge and beyond. From here our original planned route involved a steep downhill section through the fields, but the rain had made this option too wet and slippery. Instead we returned to the carpark via Long Lane.

Once back in Bollington 20 walkers enjoyed a very satisfying lunch in The Vale Inn.

Sam and Irene Chappell

### Christmas Walk

**Wednesday 18th December 2019.**

**Chapel-en-le-Frith area. 4.3 miles**



Our final walk in the 2019 schedule was led by David Burke. Twenty seven people started the walk on this grey misty December day, fortunately without rain, but misty low cloud obscured the best of the distant landscape. We left from the Old Hall Inn at Whitehough near Chinley, initially on flat terrain following the old Peak Forest Tramway Trail. This Tramway was an early horse and gravity powered industrial tramway, opened in 1796; it remained in operation until the 1920's.

We walked along to the magnificent double railway viaduct (c1867) at Chapel

Milton. Our route then took us under the relatively new Chapel by-pass and climbed up to a vantage point which should have provided a spectacular plan view of the viaduct, but misty conditions prevailed. A series of little used paths then led to the old part of Chapel-en-le-Frith and St Thomas Beckett Church where we stopped for coffee and chocolate cherry liqueurs. David spoke of the significance of the site spanning the last 800 years, from the early Norman settlement, a Saxon Cross base, plus the incarceration of soldiers during the reign Charles the first in 1648.



We left Chapel, passing through the old market place steeped in history with its ancient town stocks and the spot where Will Scarlet, the legendary companion of Robin Hood, is said to have died in 1283.

We followed Eccles Road before joining a series of paths leading to the slopes of Eccles Pike and a bridle way back to Whitehough, where we met six other walking group members who joined us for lunch at The Paper Mill pub, part of the Old Hall establishment, where we enjoyed a social Christmas drink and excellent food.

David Burke

---

**Answers to Quiz of 2019:**

Jan: Duke of Edinburgh

Feb: Olivia Coleman

March: Hong Kong

April: Tiger Roll

May: Judith Kerr

June: Donald Trump

July: USA

Aug: Toddbrook

Sept: Thomas Cook

Oct: Uluru (Ayers Rock)

Nov: Woking

Dec: Andrew Bailey

**NOTICE OF AGM**

High Lane U3A AGM will take place at 2 pm on 12 February 2020, at High Lane Village Hall.

---

**HIGH LANE U3A**

**OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS FOR 2020**

The post of Secretary is the only Officer post to be filled this year.

All Committee members need to be re-elected. New Committee members are very welcome.

If you wish to nominate any member for the post of Secretary or for the Committee, please complete the form and return it to Sheila Harrop by the date of the monthly meeting on 8 January 2020. Please ensure you have the permission and signature of the person you are nominating.

Please cut:

.....

	NOMINEE	SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	NOMINATED BY	SECONDED BY
Secretary				
Committee Member				

Note: people nominating and seconding must be members of High Lane U3A and not currently an Officer or Committee member