

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

## FROM THE CHAIR

Firstly, I'd like to wish everyone a happy, peaceful and especially a healthy New Year. This year has seen a number of members who have had accidents or illnesses and we wish them improved health in 2019.

It has been a busy year with a varied range of topics at our monthly meetings and enjoyable social activities. I would like to thank the Committee and the group leaders for all that they do on your behalf. We also have lots of help from volunteers at meetings and social events which is much appreciated. If you have ideas for social events that you would like us to arrange please let me know.

We have some committee members standing down this year so we will need replacements. 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 Head Office and other matters. If you are interested in joining the Committee, please seek nominations from members, who should not be current Officers or Committee members, sign the nomination form and send or give this to me at or before the January meeting. Election of Officers and Committee for this year will take place at the AGM on 13 February.

As well as the usual business of the AGM and the election of Officers and Committee for 2019, we need to vote on a change to the Constitution. The AGM notice is on page 15 of this newsletter along with a Nomination form for Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Committee members for next year. The nomination form can also be downloaded from the Committee page of our website. We will also have forms available at the January meeting.

Membership is due for renewal at the February AGM meeting and we are pleased to be able to maintain membership fees for 2019 at the current level of £6 (£8.50 if you wish to order the Third Age Magazine which is posted to you). This is one of the lowest membership fees in the area.

Diane Saxon

## GROUP NEWS

We are pleased to see the Reading group getting going again and new life being breathed into the philosophy group. For various reasons the Craft group and the Strollers group are no longer meeting. It would be good to get some new groups going in 2019. Please indicate your ideas for groups on your renewal form. Also please talk to Doreen Scotte, our Groups co-ordinator about any ideas you may have.

Please think about how you can help. Organising a group is not onerous and can be shared. We find that many groups share the work between the members who can each organise a session.

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## 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 2019 edition. Please get your contributions to me by 28 February.

**NOVEMBER MEETING  
AMAZING WOMEN PILOTS**

Victor Crawford gave an interesting and informative talk about a number of women pilots; some familiar, some less so. Some of the pilots he talked about were Amy Johnson, Mary Ellis, Sheila Scott and Mary Bruce. Amy Johnson was a typist from Hull who became an engineer and flew single handed to Australia. Unfortunately many of the women lost their lives in flying accidents.

He also talked about the women of the Air Transport Auxiliary who delivered planes to South Coast as well as recovering damaged planes. We were interested but not surprised to hear that women still make up a tiny fraction, just 6%, of commercial captains and pilots.

At this meeting, two groups exhibited some of the work they have been doing over the last few months.

**The Family History** group mounted a sizeable exhibition of the work they have been doing on World War 1.



Sue and Pat would like to thank everyone for their support and interest. We really appreciated the positive comments from U3A members and were glad that Jeff Mortimer brought his model plane along as it added an extra dimension to the display. The model is a First World War French SPAD biplane fighter and generated a lot of interest among members.

The exhibition was later displayed at St Thomas's church, alongside the Church's display, in the week running up to Remembrance Sunday. Quite a lot of people saw it there including some of our members who didn't come to the general meeting. Again we were pleased to receive many favourable comments.

**CARD MAKING**

Also at the November meeting, Christine and Dot from the Card making group demonstrated some of the techniques they use and showed some of the very attractive cards that group members have created.



### DECEMBER MEETING: CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Choir reminded us that 'Christmas is coming' and it was the start of a most enjoyable afternoon. They went on to entertain us with some familiar Christmas carols and also introduced us to new ones.

We were also reminded by Sheila, on behalf of the History Group, of the Christmas Blitz in Manchester in WW2 which certainly activated a few grey cells and memories of such times. How lucky we are to have had over 70 years since then of more enjoyable Festive times. This year we have been reminded of the sacrifices made in by so many of our countrymen and women in WW1 and hopefully we can learn from the past and try to maintain peace in the world.

Thanks must go to Sheila and the Committee for a most entertaining afternoon which included some very professional bell-ringers. Very tuneful and it was fascinating to watch their skill in moving between the different bells.

We must also thank those in the kitchen who provided us with a wide choice of delicious food, including healthy options of tangerines and grapes. This helped us feel less guilty when scoffing the chocolates and cakes!

Audience participation was eventually to rouse us from our festive stupor after the tea break, including a table competition with the 12 Days of Christmas; such fun. Fun and Friendship, which will hopefully continue in 2019.

Irene Taylor

### ANNUAL LUNCH

This year's Annual Lunch will be at the Alma Lodge on Thursday 7 March.

Tickets cost £22 and will be on sale at the January and February meetings.

### U3A NORTH WEST REGION MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO SHARE THEIR - MOTORING MEMORIES

- Remember your first car? Your family's first car - or was it a van? Or a motorbike and sidecar?
- Did you go on family trips, to the coast or to the countryside?
- How much did your first car cost, and where did you get it?
- How have cars changed the streets and roads you know - from how children play, to where people can park?

These are just some of the questions that the Motoring Memories project is based around.

Working from Manchester Metropolitan University, Dr. Craig Horner is keen to gather information about how society changed after the arrival of road vehicles, in ever increasing numbers. Craig has been a supporter of the U3A's Cottonopolis project from its early days, and after hosting a focus session for U3A members in September 2018 we jointly arrived at a plan of action.

### HOW TO JOIN IN

- Via Facebook: log into your FB account and then search for Motoring Memories.
- There is a private blog: [email](#) us for the link. You can just write directly onto the page. Only people who contact us directly can receive this link, so your safety is assured.
- You can send your personal memories directly to us via our [email](#)
- If you are a scribbler, use Motoring Memories as a start point, as an individual or within existing writing and discussion groups. This page can be used as a source of information if you wish. A creative writing approach is welcomed: recollections often stimulate writing. We will showcase any creative work that members send to us.
- You can contact [Dr Craig Horner](#) directly - please put Motoring Memories as the subject line

The session we had in Manchester was amazing. Do you know why the mole wrench is called a 'MOLE' wrench?

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**
**2019 MEETINGS**

This year's meetings start on 9 January 2018 with a talk by David Taylor entitled 'Winter watch'. The February meeting is our AGM.

9 January	Winter watch: David Taylor
13 February	AGM
13 March	What on earth does an airport chaplain do?: Rev George Lane
10 April	Advances in cardiac surgery: Professor Bernard Loveday
8 May	Life as a working actor: Jonathan Keeble
12 June	Writing crime fiction: Barbara Speake
10 July	Lasting power of attorney made simple: Jackie Lucas
14 August	'Tornado' steam locomotive for the 21 <sup>st</sup> century: Graham Nicholas
11 September	Amazing history walks: Josephine Gosling
9 October	Life and times of a busker: Eric Newton
13 November	Working with orangutans in the rainforest of Borneo: Sarah Lionheart
11th December	Christmas Party Entertainer: Tony Johnston

**FORTHCOMING TRAVEL GROUP EVENTS**

Contact: Margaret McDermott or Ruth Smith

23-27 May 2019	GLOUCESTER 4 nights Half board at Hallmark Hotel. £349 plus entrance fees. Single Supplement £70.
15-21 July 2019	SOMERSET 5 nights Half board at Swan Hotel Wells. £539 plus entrance fees. Single supplement £96. Possible visits to Roman Baths, Wells Cathedral, West Somerset Railway, Longleat, Cheddar Cheese Factory. DEPOSIT NOVEMBER
Aug-Sept 2019	IRELAND
3-10 Oct 2019	MEDIEVAL GERMANY River Cruise Mainz, Miltenberg, Wurzburg, Rothenburg, Bamberg, Nuremberg. Flight from Manchester to Munich.

**2019 DIARIES AND CALENDARS**

We have a small number of 2019 diaries (£3 each) and calendars (£5 each) available for members to purchase. See Pam Curley for diaries and Walter Mason for calendars.

**THE OLD YEAR** John Clare (1793-1864)

The Old Year's gone away  
 To nothingness and night:  
 We cannot find him all the day  
 Nor hear him in the night:  
 He left no footstep, mark or place  
 In either shade or sun:  
 The last year he'd a neighbour's face,  
 In this he's known by none.

All nothing everywhere:  
 Mists we on mornings see  
 Have more of substance when they're here  
 And more of form than he.

He was a friend by every fire,  
 In every cot and hall--  
 A guest to every heart's desire,  
 And now he's nought at all.

Old papers thrown away,  
 Old garments cast aside,  
 The talk of yesterday,  
 Are things identified;  
 But time once torn away  
 No voices can recall:  
 The eve of New Year's Day  
 Left the Old Year lost to all.

## GROUP REPORTS

### art

Just looked at this Thurs. 27th. Away we go again in 2019. I can't believe it, ART.

We have had as many as 31 artists; the big room is nearly full and everybody having fun. I think we are now FULL. I can't go fast enough to talk to everybody. Its brilliant. There are some great images being produced. And the biscuits are still brilliant, and the Christmas cakes made by Madeline are absolutely fantastic. We can't wait till the next time they roll up.

Thanks to Roy and the boys & girls for setting up everything and taking it down at the end of the day. Onwards and Upwards.

Brian Chadwick

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### BALLROOM DANCING

The last dance of the 2018 season saw mince pies mid-December, then a joint Christmas party a week later as we joined the Sequence dancers for Christmassy music and an informal buffet.

Walter Mason

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### BRIDGE

This time last year Steve and John were getting ready to teach a group of members the delights of Bridge. We are pleased to report that many of this group have continued to play and have joined our regular groups.



All our three Bridge groups are thriving. The Monday group is full and plays Duplicate bridge each Monday at High Lane Village Hall. There are a few spaces at the other two groups. The Wednesday group plays Duplicate bridge each week at the Hazel Grove Bowling and Tennis Club. The Thursday group plays a mixture of Chicago and Duplicate at Woodside Tennis Club.

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

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### CANASTA

After having been asked to leave the Royal Oak as we were not drinking enough despite there being plenty spare seats we took up residency in the Bull.

However the landlady left and the pub closed for a refurb so it was a delight to get an invite from the new landlord at the Royal Oak. He was very apologetic for the misgivings of the previous tenant and invited us back. It's like a sequel in the cinema "Canasta The Return".

The new landlord was extremely nice and welcoming. Some of us have sampled his Italian based menu just before Xmas and we are now looking to a long spell playing Canasta back where we belong in 2019.

Les Birks

## CHURCHES AND PUBS

## November



Our visit this month took us to St Anne's church Turton. We were welcomed by the rector Stephen Parsons and his church warden Simon who very kindly supplied us with refreshments.

St Anne's is a Grade 11 listed building and was built in 1840; it is part of the Turton Moorland Team Ministry. There was a chapel on the site in 1111 which was dedicated to St Bartholomew. The chapel was re built in 1630 by Humphrey Chetham a local landowner. In 1717 Samuel Chetham secured funds from 'Queen Anne's Bounty' to support the income for the clergy and at this time the church was rededicated to St Anne, mother of the Virgin Mary.

Sue the 'resident historian' gave us a detailed insight as to the development of the church. From the outside the church is an imposing and quite stark building but inside reflects the words of the rector 'it is a hidden gem'. There is a community space which was created in 1977. From there you enter the church and it really is beautiful. Your eye is immediately drawn to the alabaster and marble pulpit which includes a permanent memorial to the men of the village who saw action in both the first and second world wars.

The Chancel was refurbished in 1888, to include a magnificent stained-glass window, which was donated, and again the same marble in the form of a screen behind the altar. The choir stalls have detailed wooden panels behind them. The original box pews were replaced by the oak seating seen today. To the side of the pulpit is the Lady Chapel, used for smaller services. The second Willis organ was installed by the choir stalls in 1890 after the first was destroyed by a falling coping stone which had been dislodged from the roof by a lightning strike. The organ is in excellent condition and used regularly as part of services. The bell tower has only one bell as the ground is not stable enough to hold more. Outside there are extensive grounds which provide a tranquil spot for reflection.

We retired to the Chetham Arms for a tasty lunch. Many thanks to Paul and Barbara for finding the 'hidden gem'.

Lynn Arnold

## December

## St. Wilfrid's Church Davenham. December 5th

Our last Churches and pubs visit this year took us to St. Wilfrid's Church at Davenham in Cheshire. It was the worst days weather we had ever had in our many years of doing these visits. It rained very heavily all day.

When we arrived we were greeted by the rector, Reverend Rob Iveson and offered tea and biscuits. He then asked if he could say a prayer for us. This is the first time this has happened on our visits. He then told us a little about the Church and then we all did a self tour of the Church.



As with most Churches, Davenham Church has changed many times over its 900 year history. The present building dates back to 1843 when the main building was replaced and the tower and spire also replaced. On the 13th July 1830 lightning struck the tower and again on 16th July 1850.

The Church is built in red sandstone with a slate roof. The layout consists of a West tower, a five bay nave with clerestory, north and south isles, a chancel with a north vestry and a south chantry chapel and a southwestern porch. The tower has an octagonal spire with three tiers of lucarnes. The chancel was rebuilt in 1680 when a new spire was also built. The chancel was rebuilt again in 1785. The church has many stained glass windows and it is well a visit just to see all the stained glass. After we had digested all the information we had another cup of tea and another prayer said for us.

We then went to the Bulls Head pub in the village for an excellent three course lunch.

Many thanks to all who have supported the group this year and we hope you have enjoyed our visits.

**The next Churches and pubs will be 3rd April 2019 to St. Edwards at Cheddleton which is just beyond Leek. Less than an hour's drive.**

Paul and Barbara

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## CINEMA

In setting himself the task of recreating the Peterloo massacre director Mike Leigh took on a mammoth task; this he executed brilliantly. He used wherever possible authentic locations, Northern actors and actual speeches. This made for a lengthy, wordy film. Opinions were mixed but members agreed that it was a memorable and challenging evening out

Please note that we are trying a fresh idea next month with a morning screening at "Plaza " in Stockport followed by a light lunch in their restaurant. The film is "The Bookshop" on 25th Jan at 11.00

For more details contact me.

Sheila Harrop

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## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### October

Several topics were discussed, starting with a baker in Ireland who refused to ice a party cake with a message concerning gay marriage. The general consensus was that this was a 'storm in a teacup' and a silly thing to take to court!

Then it was the Russian oligarch's wife's unexplained income.....London is a money- laundering city and her income should have to be explained, particularly as her husband is in a Russian gaol convicted of embezzlement!

Loneliness was covered with the subject of GPS being allowed to prescribe cookery classes. With very few evening classes available at a reasonable cost, we thought this was a good idea. Maybe the U3A should be promoted, too!

It was agreed that Megan and Harry's wedding gave people a 'feel-good factor' ..... but there was a divided response to the popularity of the Royal Family in general.

Brexit reared its head again, as it has done at most of our meetings! Although we all felt some sympathy for Theresa May, regardless of our politics, there was no agreement on the possible financial or practical outcomes. We did agree with the suggestion, however, that the EU is trying to make an example of us so that other countries won't leave!

Other topics covered were

1. Bullying and arguments in Parliament.
2. Are we ready for a cashless economy, and do we want it?
3. Amazon and the tax laws.
4. No-fault divorce law.....good or bad?
5. Should we all sign up to an oats, flax, rice and peas diet to live longer?

The last one developed into a discussion about different foods, and ways to cook them!. including the following recipe for a crumble topping for fruit.

2oz flour, 2oz rolled oats, 2oz sugar, 2oz butter and some chopped walnuts

(In cooking, some of us don't use metric measures!)

As usual, Margaret's cakes and biscuits were enjoyed with tea and coffee. If you would like to join the group, please contact Margaret McDermott.

Mavis Dean

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## GERMAN



The German Group ended another successful year with its annual Christmas lunch at the Wycliffe Hotel, Edgeley attended by 19 of us including partners. This year it was very successfully organised by Barry Meakin, so thank you, Barry! As always, the food, service and company were top-notch.

2018 provided us with lots of useful reading material, both in the real world of international politics, in human interest stories and crime in the unlikeliest of settings, most recently in a petting zoo!

Members of the group, as always, contribute to each meeting with their own stories, and what an interesting lot they are!

We look forward to meeting up in the New Year when our first meeting will be on Friday, 11th January.

Marlene Brookes

## HANDBELL RINGING

It is nearly two years since our group formed. They say “Oh no, it isn’t” but reality says it is. There are ten of us and it is quite miraculous that we manage to meet at all; a busier group of people cannot be imagined. This means that meeting times are varied but so far we have managed to meet in daylight hours.

We have put together a little programme of pieces and have ventured forth into the wide world on several occasions including the U3A Christmas party. We feel greatly encouraged by the response to our efforts and would like to thank everyone for their kind compliments. We now need to add to our repertoire as we have another ‘engagement’ imminently planned. No pressure then!

Kate Heller

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## HISTORY

### November meeting

Four members of the group gave short presentations on a great man of their choice, trying to redress the balance because of suffragette topics that we had covered in recent meetings.

Julia Curtis presented Velikovsky. Immanuel Velikovsky was a Russian scholar who wrote a number of books reinterpreting the events of ancient history. His book *Worlds in Collision* postulated theories about colliding planets which sufficiently outraged the scientific world to attack and suppress the book. He died in 1979 in the United States.

Velikovsky's ideas have been almost entirely rejected by mainstream academia (often vociferously so) and his work is generally regarded as erroneous in all its detailed conclusions, although at a later date it was believed that some of his ideas could not be so easily dismissed.

Pauline Price presented Richard Arkwright - Richard Arkwright was very important in the early textile industry because he introduced a new way of working by building the first factory which meant that the workers would go to the factory to work instead of working in their own homes. He is credited with inventing the spinning frame, which following the transition to water power was renamed the water frame. He also patented a rotary carding engine that transformed raw cotton into cotton lap.

Irene Taylor presented Aneurin Bevan - Aneurin Bevan, often known as Nye Bevan, was a Welsh Labour Party politician who was the Minister for Health in the UK from 1945 to 1951. The son of a coal miner, Bevan was a lifelong champion of social justice, the rights of working people and democratic socialism and was responsible for the creation of the British National Health Service.

Marlene Brookes presented Edmund Dene Morel - Edmund Dene Morel was a British journalist, author, pacifist, and politician. As a young official at the shipping company Elder Dempster, Morel observed a fortune in rubber returning from the Congo while only guns and manacles were being sent in return. He correctly deduced that these resources were being extracted from the population by force and began to campaign to expose the abuses.

In collaboration with Roger Casement, Morel led a campaign against slavery in the Congo Free State, founding the Congo Reform Association and running the West African Mail. With the help of celebrities such as Arthur Conan Doyle and Mark Twain, the movement successfully pressured the Belgian King Leopold II to turn over the Congo to the Belgian government, ending some of the human rights abuses perpetrated under his rule.

Pam Curley

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

After welcoming Bryan, a prospective new member, November’s Cottage Competition saw an outright winner from Derek – Thomas Hardy Cottage, Dorset; with Bob second – Irish Cottage,



and a cluster of equal thirds, Diane – St Martin’s church cottage, Marple Bridge Bob – Flintstone Cottage, and Walter– Anne Hathaway’s Cottage Stratford and a Bramhall Cottage.

Afterwards the 2019 programme was discussed, competition subjects chosen, and a decision made to have a display at a monthly meeting next year, as a change from calendars.

Walter Mason

**QUIZ**

Our November meeting was led by Pat who once again tested our brains and memories with a range of topics and questions. Our refreshment activity was a series of famous, and not so famous, faces to identify plus clues for us to solve to find people who have died during 2018.

Our next meeting is 24 January 2019. Please contact me if you are interested in joining us.

Diane Saxon

**QUIZ OF 2018**

How well do you remember 2018?

Answers are on page 14.

January	Who scrapped a planned visit to the UK?
February	Where did the winter Olympics take place?
March	Which Liverpoolian comedian died?
April	Prince Louis was born to William and Kate. What position is he in line to the throne?
May	Who announce the closure of 100 stores?
June	Where was an Orca whale spotted in the UK?
July	Who won the World Cup Final? Who did they beat and what as the score?
August	The Bank of England raised the basic interest rate for the first time since 2009. To what rate?
September	Where did we meet David Budd?
October	Who was elected for a second term as President of Ireland?
November	What was agreed – and then rejected?
December	Where did a fire break out in the ‘Monsoon forest’?

## READING

The Reading Group continues to go from strength to strength with 9 regular members now attending.

In November we discussed *THE GUSTAV SONATA* by Rose Tremain, the story of the friendship of two boys from very different backgrounds, growing up in post-war Switzerland and their subsequent very different adult lives. Their rebonding in late middle age provided a very satisfactory ending to an unusual story which gave us an insight into the very real anxieties of the Swiss during the war years.

December's book was *MORTAL MISCHIEF* by Frank Tallis, a mystery set in early 20th century Vienna, the first in a series of novels featuring Max Liebermann and his friend, Inspector Rheinhardt.

Tallis manages to draw a very convincing picture of Vienna at that time in this many stranded novel. Max is a student of Freud and he uses his knowledge of psychology to help Rheinhardt in his criminal investigations. The novel gained widespread approval and some members have already ordered the second book in the series.

We next meet on 7th January when we will discuss *HIDDEN LIVES* by Margaret Forster which reflects on the changes in women's lives across three generations. On February 4th we will be talking about *THE ABSOLUTIST* by John Boyne, a story set during and after WW1 and on March 4th *KOLYMSKI HEIGHTS* by Lionel Davidson.

If you are interested in joining the group, see me at the monthly meetings.

Marlene Brookes

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## SEQUENCE DANCING

Our group has survived another year with us (hoorah!) Several people have managed to retain a few shreds of sanity (not us though!). We have even learnt some new dances including a Swing, a Samba routine and some Foxtrot manoeuvres. There have been hardly any tantrums to speak of and no dummies thrown out of prams, except by Ian.

Lots of members decided to humour us by turning up at our Sunday Socials at the Village Hall which have been really jolly occasions. There is some doubt about whether people are coming for the dancing or the delicious homemade cakes that kid people keep supplying. We are hoping this support will continue, whatever the reason. We resume at the Reading Room on 4 January and have lots of new torments planned for our group. The next social will be on 13 January

Kate Heller and Ian Hope

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## TRAVEL

### Haddon Hall

We arrived at Haddon Hall on a bright and frosty morning to be greeted with welcome coffee and biscuits after which we toured the hall. Lovely Christmas decorations and we were entertained by Handbell Ringers playing Christmas music. In 'Grandma's House' we were entertained by Grandma reciting amusing and appropriate poems and stories, in front of a blazing log fire. It really brought the Christmas season to life.

Unfortunately Haddon Hall is not very suitable for visitors who are 'getting on' and perhaps not too spry, with rather a lot of steps and uneven surfaces but I am glad to report that we all returned home in one piece!

We then had a very good lunch in the restaurant which I think was enjoyed by everyone.

Pat Gorie



## WALKING

**Wednesday 31st October 2018**

**Adlington and Poynton**

Some two dozen of us met in the car park of the Legh Arms for a 7'ish mile walk around the northern half of Adlington Parish. Our walk follows footpaths and other public rights of way around this ancient rural parish and looks at its industrial heritage over the last 250 years.

Exiting the car park we took the London Road, A523, for a short distance before picking up the path along Red Brook and past Adlington Sewage Works, where we swung northwards through open fields towards Adlington Golf Centre. The new Poynton Relief Road will cut one of the golf courses in two and the paths here are being renewed and re-routed as a new golf course and the road are constructed.

We stopped for a coffee break at a convenient picnic table and gazebo ('courtesy' of Adlington Golf Centre). From here we could see the new Avro Heritage Museum as well as the full extent of the housing development on the old Woodford Airfield. After passing between the airfield and golf centre we turned east to pass quickly through Adlington Park Industrial estate to reach London Road again at Hope Green. A short hop up London Road brought us back to a path, initially skirting Poynton Industrial Estate then into Hope Lane; a pleasant lane along a stream through woodland. At Hope Lane Cottage we paused for everyone to stroke the donkeys before reaching Wood Lane West at Clayton Greaves Farm. After heading south on Wood Lane we returned to open field paths to Pedley Hill Farm. Here we rejoined Wood Lane and passed through Booth Green to Roundy Lane where a stile took us (through a holly bush!) to a pleasant little spot by a stream on the edge of a wood where we paused for lunch.

Fully refreshed we headed up the field to meet the Middlewood Way as it passes under Brookledge Lane at Hibbert Brow Farm. A few yards up the lane took us to the Macclesfield Canal at bridge no. 22. So now our rural walk has taken us back in time 250 years to when the proposals for a canal linking Macclesfield to the national network were first mooted. Plans eventually came to fruition around 1824 and the canal opened in 1831 but was sold to the railways in 1846. The Middlewood Way follows the route of the former Macclesfield, Bollington and Marple railway which operated between 1869 and 1970. The canal carried commercial traffic until 1954 and was designated as a Conservation Area in 1975. Both canal and railway are now recreational routes serving a wide variety of leisure activities.

A short but pleasant stroll down the canal to bridge no. 22 saw us take the path back to the Middlewood Way. Here we crossed into open fields again at Barton's Clough and took the North Cheshire Way west, through Harrop Green Farm into Whych Wood. At Whych Wood the path joins Whych Lane and after passing Whych Cottage took us back to Adlington at Brookledge Lane. After so many whych'es we were worryingly weary, but a left turn onto the lane took us over the railway and back to the Legh Arms!

Ron & Marje Rennell

### Marple viaduct, circular walk, Wednesday 21st November, 2018

This was a seven mile walk led by Shelagh and Ralph with a total ascent of 1076 feet. It was a cold, dry, but damp, windy morning when 23 of us left the Hare and Hounds public house at Dooley Lane, Marple and 26 returned!

Up the hill, across the A626 road to ascend Higher Danbank. A short way up the road a large white lorry wanted to pass so the walkers at the back squeezed against the hedge to let it by, while those at the front strode on quickly to reach the top so the lorry turn off.

Through to a farm track only to be met by a herd of cows, ready for milking, coming towards us. Fortunately Marje, one of the front walkers, had experience of dealing with cows expertly and gently made us a narrow path to one side of for us to pass, it was like an obstacle course with derelict cars, tractors and machinery at one side, moving cows on the other and thick, sticky mud, puddles and cow pats underfoot. The farmer was not perturbed by our presence - in fact we had quite a lengthy chat waiting for all the walkers to make their way through. He advised us that milk prices would rise after Christmas as farmers all over the country were reducing herds due to the low price paid for milk.



We then made our way across a wet grassy field that did an excellent job of cleaning our boots of mud etc. Followed by a grassy pathway to the Middlewood Way and a good walking surface to Marple Golf course. Here we turned off on a path running through the woods, providing protection from the strong winds, to the open path across the fairways to the Macclesfield Canal. On the left was Goyt Mill built in 1905 which is debateably the most southern cotton mill - mills south of here being silk mills. We turned off at Hawk Green to have our coffee break at the tables outside the Crown Hotel (unfortunately not open at 11.15 am). They had previously generously allowed us to use them. We were joined by a further three walkers who for some reason did not want to do the first two and a half mile 475 feet total ascent challenges.

After refreshments we made our way up the Ridge to enjoy some views, not at their best in the cloudy weather but still worth seeing. We made our way along the Ridge and down to the Peak Forest canal enjoying some very atmospheric views of misty hills, then a short walk alongside the canal before turning off uphill to Marple, to enjoy some distant hill views.

Walking down Marple locks (the locks lift the boats 209 feet using 16 locks) for lunch at the picnic area, we mistakenly walked past two benches looking for the five that were there when the walk was tested ten days earlier so we had lunch on the sides of the canal bridge. It was intended to play two audio clips using a mobile and portable speaker, but the group was too dispersed and cold so it was abandoned. They and other audio clips can be listened to by downloading the Oldknow's App.

After a short lunch break we moved on over Marple Aqueduct. This is the highest aqueduct in England being 100 feet above the river Goyt and 209 feet long. We moved along the Peak Forest canal leaving at Hyde Bank Bridge following the path the horses took over the hill while the boatmen "legged" the boat through the tunnel. We soon turned off through some ancient (established before 1600) woods of mainly native species of oak, ash, holly and hawthorn trees. We ended up at a detour point for a ten minute extension to look at Chadkirk Chapel but there were no takers.

We moved on using very good paths and views alongside the River Goyt before the sting in the tail, a 100 feet climb in 300 yards. We then meandered back with some interesting views through trees to Chadkirk industrial estate and Wyevale garden centre before reaching our starting point the Hare and Hounds public house.

Shelagh and Ralph

**Christmas Walk Wednesday 19th December 2018**  
**Whitehough, Eccles Pike and Christmas lunch at The Old Hall**



33 walking group members turned out for our Christmas walk, led by Alison and Brian Allerton. 29 stayed for lunch at The Old Hall. We occupied the main room, overlooked by a minstrel's gallery and enjoyed a worthy Christmas lunch.

The walk route, modified slightly on the day to avoid a troublesome muddy section, involved one warming climb from Whitehough, up the northern flank of Eccles Pike, to join the horizontal path westward, which provided exceptional views of the whole valley from South Head to the East, Chinley Churn to the North and the distant skyline of Manchester, etched clearly in the sunshine, to the West. We left the horizontal path at Portobello, enjoyed a coffee stop (with liqueurs) and descended to Buxworth Basin where we joined the old tram line leading back to the Old Hall carpark at Whitehough. Approximate distance 4 miles.

David Burke

**Answers to Quiz of 2018:**

Jan: Donald Trump

Feb: South Korea

March: Ken Dodd

April: 5<sup>th</sup>

May: Marks & Spencer

June: Plymouth Sound

July: France; Croatia; 4-2

Aug: 0.75%

Sept: The BBC Bodyguard drama series

Oct: Michael Higgins

Nov: Brexit agreement

Dec: Chester Zoo

**NOTICE OF AGM**

High Lane U3A AGM will take place at 2 pm on 13 February 2019, at High Lane Village Hall. As well as the normal agenda items we have a special resolution regarding a change to our Constitution

**Special Resolution – CHANGE TO THE OBJECT CLAUSE**

The Charity Commission has recently advised our national body, the Third Age Trust, that the wording of our object clause needs to include all our activities, not limiting it to educational activities only. We need to adopt this agreed new wording to ensure that we comply with charity law and ensure that all our activities are covered by our insurance policies. The new wording is

*“The advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work, by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development.”*

Your Committee recommends that this resolution should be accepted. Members will be asked to vote on the resolution at the meeting.

**HIGH LANE U3A**

**OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS FOR 2019**

The Officers and Committee for 2019 are to be elected at the AGM on 13 February 2019

If you wish to nominate any member for the Officers’ posts listed below or for the Committee, please complete the form and return it to Diane Saxon by the date of the monthly meeting on 9 January 2019. Please ensure you have the permission and signature of the person you are nominating.

Please cut:

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	NOMINEE	SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	NOMINATED BY	SECONDED BY
Chair				
Vice Chair				
Treasurer				
Committee Member				

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