



Newsletter

November 2025



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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the November edition of the High Lane u3a newsletter. As always, thanks to the group leaders and contributors for their articles and photographs. Great to hear from the Table Tennis groups – and an apology from me for overlooking this last month. This month's cover photo shows one of their groups in action.

On page 4 we have the programme of speakers for 2026. Our thanks go to Lynn for a broad and interesting range of topics. Something for everyone!

Accompanying your newsletter is the latest National Office Friends bitesize newsletter. This contains reports of many varied activities taking place in u3as across the country.

The next issue of our newsletter will be December 2025, the final one for 2025. Please send me your contributions by November 28th at newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk.

Diane Saxon

FROM THE CHAIR

Well, that's it. The clocks have gone back and it's dark by 5.30pm.

Anyway, enough doom and gloom. At the next monthly meeting, November, it will be free entry and tickets for the Christmas party in December will be on sale.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY IS ALL TICKET. NO TICKET NO ENTRY.

This is because we are having a buffet and need to know how many to cater for.

Music is provided by Joy and Kevin Siddall who we have had before and are very good. It should be an excellent afternoon.

Membership renewals will be done the same way as last year. Only new members, or anyone whose contact details have changed, will need to fill in a membership form.

Membership fees are staying the same as this year. £8 or £12 with the u3a Matters magazine (Not the newsletter). The newsletter is sent out automatically each month to your email address.

At the last committee meeting we were looking at suggestions for ideas for events for next year. Another quiz night was suggested but we could do with other ideas. Please if you have any other ideas speak to a committee member.

Paul Kenneth

ENTERTAINMENT EVENING

Do you remember the King's Coronation, Queen Elizabeth's coronation; any memorable event in fact? Where you were, who you were with etc? When I come to recall Friday 24th October 2025, I shall remember it as the night the roof nearly came off High Lane Village Hall. Perhaps you heard it too?

Those of us inside were taken back in time to the sixties with music/songs courtesy of the talented Nancy Ann Lee aka Little Miss Sixties. What a powerful voice and what a great range of songs. Nancy soon had us tapping our feet and singing along to the chorus of many a tune. Interestingly we all knew the words but struggled naming some of the artists, but we had fun guessing.



In the first set we were entertained by Sandy Shaw, Dusty Springfield and Nancy Sinatra. Just before the break we were encouraged by Mr and Mrs Twinkletoes themselves (aka Barbara and Paul) to get out onto the dance floor to the beat of Dancing in the Street by Martha and the Vandellas. In the second set we were treated to some Tamla Motown and songs from the amazing Diana Ross and the Supremes. No sixties show would be complete without the unforgettable Lulu with Shout; a perfect way to end the evening.

I must also mention Reflections who provided a veritable feast for our enjoyment. Many thanks to Barbara for organising a wonderful evening down memory lane.

Lynn Arnold

MONTHLY MEETING

The speaker at the October meeting was Peter Sykes who kindly stood in at the last minute due to the illness of the original speaker.

The title of his talk was The Life of a Junior Hospital Doctor. Peter is a retired surgeon who qualified in 1966 at Manchester University. He took us through his training pointing out the things which have changed over the last 50 years. When he qualified, he felt daunted with the responsibility of the role. In his first week he has a mix up with blood samples which luckily was sorted out by the lab technician.

He talked about the hierarchy between the junior doctors and the consultants. He lived and worked in the hospital which put a great strain on any social life. Luckily things have improved. His talk was well received, and he sold quite a lot of books.

The next meeting is on 12th November, and the speakers are from Stockport Magistrates' Court.

Kath Wareham

PROGRAMME FOR 2026

Date	Speaker	Title
14 th January	Colin Mail	Lyme: Science and superstition, Leeches and Leghs.
11 th February		AGM
11 th March	Allan Shalks	My unusual early life; some experiences in TV, films, theatre and radio
8 th April	Marilyn Shalks	I wish my life was like a musical
13 th May	The Baroness of Bolsover	Afternoon tea etiquette; absolutely no slurping!
10 th June	Fran Sandham	A solo walk across Africa
8 th July	Simon Michael	Crime fiction author
12 th August	Paul Isherwood	Child gambler wins back life
9 th September	Brian Halliwell	It's a wonderful life; innovations and inventions
14 th October	Caroline England	From divorce lawyer to Duchess of the Dark Domestic Noir
11 th November	DC Haroon Acram	Fraud protection officer
9 th December	TBC	Christmas Party

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2026

You will be able to renew your membership at the January and February meetings. It will not be necessary to complete a form unless any of your details have changed.

The membership fee is the same as last year; £8 or £12 to include the magazine. It would be really helpful if you are paying by cash that you have the correct money. Cheques should be made out to High Lane u3a and if they can be completed before you arrive that would also be very helpful.

Lynn Arnold

GROUP NEWS

TABLE TENNIS

HIGH LANE u3a OPEN table tennis group

We meet at Brabyns Park Recreation Centre on Tuesdays from 13:00 to 15:00.

Sub: £1.50

Coordinator: Keith Seddon

Contacts: Brian Ward, Tony Cavanagh and John Penny.

table-tennis@highlaneu3a.org.uk

New members are welcome from all local u3as – all abilities including absolute beginners to the more advanced.

We generally play Doubles and have 4/5 tables available.



We are a very friendly bunch. If you are unsure, try a free taster session; we can even lend you a bat...

Table tennis is great for getting exercise. It's a game you can play at any age, and it offers a way to meet new people. All for £1.50 including tea/coffee and a biscuit!



There are also a few vacancies at our sister group run by Marple U3A; (members may attend both groups):

We meet at Brabyns Park Recreation Centre on Wednesdays from 13:15 to 15:15.

Sub: £1.50

Coordinator: David Wilkinson

CANASTA

The Canasta group is still very popular with three new couples joining us lately, but you do not need to come with a partner.

We play every Tuesday night at The Royal Oak pub 7 till 9 pm.

Pauline Wright

CHURCHES AND PUBS

On Monday 1st October the Churches and Pubs group, 28 members made a visit to St John's Methodist Church at Hayfield in High Peak, Derbyshire. St John's is the thirteenth oldest Methodist chapel in continuous use in the UK. The chapel built of grit stone and slate dates from 1782 and is grade 2 listed. The chapel has been in use for approaching 250 years by candlelight, gas light and electric. It has a pipe organ dating from 1856/7 which was restored in 1966 and is still used on special occasions. The chapel interior was refitted in 1908 when the porch was added, and beautiful stained-glass windows were inserted as a gift in the 1950s. It had box pews many of which were removed to make the use of the church more versatile, but it has retained some which are still used.

The interior of the church has undergone development especially to the floor when it was discovered that the joists had deteriorated which has to be replaced. Upon investigation it was discovered that the 'joints' were actually rims of cartwheels which spanned the supporting walls. Further improvements were made removing the old pulpit, communion rail and replacing some pews with chairs. It also had an extension to the rear housing a porch and disabled toilets.

Our thanks to Sheila and Deaconess Georgina and their interesting and informative talks about the chapel. We then went across the road to the George Hotel in Hayfield for a lovely lunch, thanks to Lindsay and the staff.

David and Gill Edmonson

The last Churches and Pubs meeting is December 3rd to St. Mary's at Lymm. There are a few places left. See Pam Cooke at the November monthly meeting and put your name down. Please make sure you have money to pay for the meals when you book. Thanks.

Paul Kenneth

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Topics discussed at our October meeting included:

- As in recent times it would have been unusual if US President, Donald Trump, had not been discussed. The subject of the Nobel Peace prize which he covets became the first topic. The Norwegian Nobel Committee announced the nominations much earlier in the year and this year it was awarded to Maria Corina Machado for her work in promoting democracy in Venezuela. Donald Trump was given four nominations so no doubt he will be nominated again in 2026.
- It was an interesting conversation on the different ways people became very rich. Some well-known figures such as David Beckham became wealthier through sponsorship and promotion of brands on television and magazines. The younger generation have used their iPhones and social media platforms to become influencers by promoting themselves (or goods) constantly. This can lead to an employment for those who have been successful in accumulating a large number of followers.
- It was thought that the two-child benefit cap which restricts payment for additional children in the family should not be increased. This would increase the welfare bill which is already at its highest since welfare systems were started.
- The recent announcement that A-level standard of English was a requirement for legal migrants such as skilled worker from next year was met with derision. Although an ability to speak English should be a necessity it was felt that this new rule was put in place as a barrier to slow down immigration.
- Recent TV warnings and Helpline phone numbers regarding the contents of programmes seem to be used in unnecessary and too many circumstances. In some instances, it was felt that it should be up to the individual to switch off.
- It was felt that that fans behaviour at the forthcoming international football match between Aston Villa and Israel's Maccabi Tel Aviv should be discussed and decided by the football authorities and the police who have more knowledge and expertise in handling such events. Sir Kier Starmer should not become involved.
- The topic of AI raised the question of whether it will destroy the ability of users to think for themselves and not explore or consider a different decision. On the other hand, it is recognised that it may be exceptionally helpful in medical research.
- Cardiff Council has approved plans to charge more for parking for larger vehicles, but it was agreed that parking spaces do not seem to have changed over many years although more cars have become bigger. We agreed that it was difficult to park if you had two SUVs on either side in a supermarket car park. Conclusion was that car parking spaces should be made bigger.

Paulene Whyte

MEMOIRS

The theme for the October meeting was Weddings and many members recounted some of their memories.

We were told about a first job at 15 in a photography shop which specialised in wedding photos. One day she was allowed to take a picture of the couple cutting the cake. Unfortunately, in her nervous state she forgot to set the flash and the photo was dark!

One lady remembered her first wedding when she was a bridesmaid at 3 years old. She talked about some of the many wedding traditions.

There was an account of a very happy wedding day which took place on the anniversary of the day war broke out! The day wasn't spoiled by the fact that the vicar had been at the communion wine!

Another lady told us about her wedding day and remembered that she had mistakenly forgotten to pay for her wedding outfit.

There were memories of how the train journey to go on their honeymoon was fraught with delays and they spent their first night together in a waiting room!

Memories of how their car was decorated and had the rotor arm removed! They did eventually make it to their destination.

One man reminisced about having to convert to Roman Catholicism and the thunderstorm which soaked them on the way to their honeymoon. They burned themselves sunbathing which rather delayed the consummation of their marriage!

Away from the theme one man read a poem he wrote to explain the rules of the game of cricket. Lots of ins and outs and silly words!

We were told about the very varied life of a son. He had many adventures in many countries and now lives in Japan. His wedding photo showed them both in traditional dress.

This was a meeting full of laughter.

Quote for the month

Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened. – Dr Seuss

Barbara Kenneth

PHOTOGRAPHY

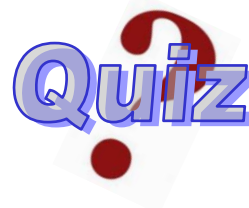
Our competition subject for the month was Halloween. This proved a difficult subject and there were fewer than our usual number of photos. Many of the photos were taken from shop displays or private locations so we cannot include them here for publication on the website.

However, I am pleased to report that there was a clear winner, and our congratulations go to Barbara for her picture of a Spooky Spider taken at Blenheim. Three photos were tied for second place and four for third – you know who you are!

Our next subject is a Lone Tree. If anybody would like to enter, please send three pictures to me at photographygroupleader@highlaneu3a.org.uk by the 23rd of November.

Ken Jackson

QUIZZING



This month's quiz was set by Angela, and we had another interesting mix of questions which included famous Alans, Science, Geography, fictional detectives and people whose first name and surname start with the same letter.

Some for you to try:

Name given to a person who studies trees
Hottest planet in our solar system
Second largest city in Japan
Longest canal in the UK
Capital of Lithuania
Animal with the strongest bite

We have just one more meeting this year and would welcome members who might like to come along and see what we do. We have many kinds of questions; every quiz is different. The next meeting is 10am on 27th November.

Please contact me if you would like more information.

Diane Saxon

READING

Our book for October was THE INSTRUMENTALIST by Harriet Constable which told the story of Anna Maria della Pietra, a foundling brought up in a convent in Venice. As she shows promise as a talented musician, she is taught violin by the "red priest", never named but obviously Vivaldi who arranges concerts outside the convent at which she excels, and she becomes a well-known musician in her own right. The novel implies that he might have stolen some of her compositions and passed them off as his own. When he abandons her and leaves Venice she becomes a composer and conductor in her own right, but as a woman, never gets the recognition she deserves and continues to live in the convent.

The novel paints a vivid picture of Venice in the 18th century, both in its splendour and its squalor and is well worth a read. We rounded off the afternoon with some lovely cakes, baked by Ingrid who had chosen the book.

Our book for November is THE MURDER OF ROGER ACKROYD by Agatha Christie, a novelty of some of us who only know her from television adaptations.

Marlene Brookes

TRAVEL

Holidays for 2026

January 26 th	Potters resort Essex Information at January meeting
June 29 th	Cumbria and Lake District 4 nights at Damson Dene Hotel Bowness DEPOSIT NOVEMBER
July 17 th	CRUISE FROM LIVERPOOL 8 nights Ireland and Scotland Fred Olsen, Bolette
August 3 rd	SCOTLAND Cancelled because of lack of interest
May 3 rd	HIGH CLERE CASTLE (Downton Abbey) Information and deposit NOVEMBER

Margaret McDermott

SHORT WALKS



Seven of us walked the 3 miles from Mellor Church. It was a cold start exposed to the wind, down through the vineyard to a very pretty hamlet Townscliffe. Now sheltered from the wind, the walk took us through Millbrow to Hollywood End and Chatterton Lane Farm. Past Mellor Hall then back to Mellor Church.

It was a circular walk with amazing views for miles around – even though it was a slightly overcast day. It could also be called "the walk to view the houses of the rich" – such beautiful properties and gardens! It is a walk we will repeat when the sun is shining.

Helen Williams



GERMAN

We are a regular group of four who meet every Friday. Recently we have had visits from former members who have moved south to be nearer relatives. They really miss having a u3a nearby.

Marlene Brookes

WALKING

Walk Hayfield 29th October

The Royal Hotel in Hayfield was the starting point for the thirteen intrepid walkers determined to enjoy the fresh air and exercise. Boots, rucksacks and rain gear packed, we started off into a cloudy damp Derbyshire morning, weather reports promising better as the day progressed. We could only hope.



Walking steadily upwards, on a narrow path and out on to Highgate Lane and then the Pennine bridleway towards Mount Famine and South Head we would occasionally turn to take in the view of Lantern Pike, Kinder Scout still surrounded in mist and Hayfield receding in the distance. Much to the elation of all, the clouds began to break up, and the sun appeared. With spirits lifted the group continued to the high point of the climb. The view was worth the effort. Chinley and Chapel en le Frith below us, the hills above Buxton in sight and to the northwest the Manchester high rise towers.



Taking a downward path past Andrews farm and crossing Chinley Road we headed towards the Naze and lunch time. Having rested we walk along Maynestone road to Peep o Day farm and then the path to Phoside farm and the ruins of the early

nineteenth century Phoside Mill. After another mile we returned to Hayfield, the day having turned to bright sunshine; everyone is pleased with the day's endeavours and several of the more socially inclined retire to the George Hotel in search of refreshment.



A big round of thanks to Merlyn whose research and local knowledge added greatly to the day's enjoyment, and all involved to make the event so memorable.

Ian Hope

NATIONAL OFFICE LEARNING EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER

Just a selection of events. As well as these, there are regular events which occur month by month.

5 November	Is Hydrogen the Fuel of the Future
6 November	The Talking Drums of Africa
10 November	Catherine the Great
13 November	What Next? From Retired to Redefined
19 November	The Mind of Your Microwave, with u3a Let's Talk Tech
25 November	Are you Influential? Get your voice heard in the UK Parliament

There are many other events on wide ranging topics. All are free via Zoom. Remember they can fill up quickly. Click here for details and to book a place.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

DID YOU KNOW? November in History

Nelson's statue was placed on the plinth in Trafalgar square (1843)

Guy Fawkes was arrested (1605)

Great War ended (1918)

Stanley met Livingstone (1871)

BBC started world's first regular TV service (1936)

President Kennedy was shot in Dallas (1963)

Tutenkamen's temple was discovered by Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon (1922)

Nancy Astor, Britain's first woman MP was elected (1919)

Berlin Wall fell (1989)

Suez Canal was officially opened (1869)

Band Aid stars recorded 'Do they know it's Christmas' (1984)

AND FINALLY Some Autumn quotes

- "It's the first day of autumn! A time of hot chocolatey mornings, and toasty marshmallow evenings, and, best of all, leaping into leaves!" – Winnie The Pooh
- "It was one of those perfect English autumnal days which occur more frequently in memory than in life." – P.D. James
- "Autumn seemed to arrive suddenly that year. The morning of the first September was crisp and golden as an apple." – J.K. Rowling
- "Summer makes me drowsy. Autumn makes me sing. Winter's pretty lousy, but I hate Spring." – Dorothy Parker

