

**GROUPS UPDATE**

We are pleased to report that the Dining Group has restarted. Thanks to Jeanette Bell and Dorothy Neillands for getting this group going again. Turn to page 9 for information about planned lunches.

Sue Dintinger is restarting the Music Appreciation group in September. It will meet each month on third Monday of the month; the first one beginning 15th Sept. Meetings will be held in St. Thomas's church hall from ten o'clock till twelve. Anyone interested should contact Sue.

Ron Barrow has started a backgammon group which meets to play backgammon fortnightly. Contact Ron for details. An Opera group has started (see page 11) and is already nearly full. Maybe we need a second group? A mahjong group is having its first meeting this week and will be starting in September. And last but not least we will also be starting a Tai Chi group at the Village Hall in September.

If you are interested in getting involved with or joining any of these groups please email the editor or talk to Pat Christopher, our new groups' co-ordinator. New ideas are very welcome. If you have an idea for a group please contact Pat.

**YOUR CHANCE TO LEARN BRIDGE - BEGINNERS' COURSE**

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

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

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

Steve Reynolds  
 John McCartney



*Summer Art exhibition – see page 3*

**EMAIL ALERT**

**There have been a few spam emails circulating amongst U3A members over the last few weeks. We advise you to take extra care with your email at the moment. See page 6 for some more information and advice.**

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

Groups update Bridge for beginners Monthly meetings Quiz winner Report from London trip Art Exhibition and Photo Display Forthcoming events Invitation from HOST UK WEA Autumn courses FutureLearn courses IT Corner – Be careful with your email Healthcare consultation Media request Scrabble Quiz	<b>Group reports</b> Ballet Appreciation Churches and Pubs Crown Green Bowling Current Affairs Dining Gardening German History Opera Philosophy Photography Reading Singing Walking
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**FROM THE EDITOR**

Items for the newsletter from members are always welcome. This could be short stories, poems, letters, puzzles, news etc. Please contact me at [newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk)

**The next edition of the newsletter will be the November edition. Please can you get your contributions to me by Friday October 31?**

**MONTHLY MEETINGS**



At the July meeting, Swasie Turner entertained us with stories of his many and varied exploits most of which seemed to involve carrying and lifting his heavy NHS wheelchair across difficult terrain or up lighthouses and towers. In one expedition he wheeled from John O’Groats to Lands End in 44 days raising a stack of money for charity along the way. He has ‘run’ the London marathon, jumped out of aeroplanes, ‘done’ the Manx TT circuit – the list seemed to be endless. Further afield he told us of many more adventures including retracing the yomp across the Falkland Islands, traversing Death Valley in the USA and visiting Australia.



At the August meeting (David Garfield Davies, Baron Davies of Coity CBE told us about his life as a trade unionist with USDAW and the TUC. He was made a peer by Tony Blair in 1997 and is now a member of the House of Lords. His presentation was followed by a lively question and answer session.

**PARTS OF THE BODY QUIZ WINNER**

Thanks to all those members who entered the Parts of the Body quiz. Congratulations to Julie Thurstan for her highest scoring entry. The prize will be presented at the monthly meeting. This edition’s quiz is a Scrabble game. You can find this on page 6.

**LONDON 2014 (WITH POETIC LICENCE!)**

*Driving down to London on a Bullocks’ bus  
Pity the poor driver with fifty-three of us!*

*At Bletchley Park we were full of admiration –  
For clever code-breakers who helped save our nation.*

*The gardens and views at Kew were quite stunning.  
A real national treasure, but far too hot for running.*

*To a theatre to see Phantom we decided to go -  
Spell binding music and drama in a much loved show.*

*Eyes right and then left as we toured London streets,  
So much to see from our comfortable seats.*

*The Houses of Parliament were special to see  
And we had ‘Question Time’ with our own MP!*



*For a cruise on the Thames we climbed aboard.  
On our sail to Greenwich we were far from bored.*

*Jewels glistened at the Tower, and of history we listened.  
We must have all been well behaved as no-one was imprisoned.*

*A huge accolade to our leader Sue  
Who never tired of explaining the next thing to do.*

*Sorting out folks’ problems and niggles,  
Then happily sharing our laughs and our giggles.*

*Thank you Sue from one and all,  
Let loud applause ring round the hall!*

Betty Upham

**ART EXHIBITION AND PHOTO DISPLAY**

The Art group staged an exhibition of their work at the August meeting. There was a range of excellent artwork; everyone was very impressed by the professional standard of the work. The group leader, Brian Chadwick invites interested members to come along to the group.



The Photography group presented a display of their work to complement the Art display. The photographs aroused much interest and favourable comment. Hopefully the event will encourage some new members to come along and join the group.



Members were asked to vote for their favourite photos in two categories; Nature and man-made. The photographs with the highest number of votes were Eric Smith's "Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly" and Brian Beck's "Pisa Leaning Tower, Reflected".



Congratulations to Eric and Brian. The prizes will be presented to the winners at the next monthly meeting.

Walter Mason

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**HIGH LANE U3A HAPPENINGS**

8 Sept	Shakespeare Group. Troilus and Cressida
10 Sept	Monthly meeting. David/Anna Drackley. Tales of the Unexpected
11 Sept	Craft and Needlework Group
12 Sept	German Group
24 Sept	Walking group. Edensor and Calton Pastures.
8 Oct	Monthly meeting. Pennant Roberts 'A Cure for Nostalgia'
7 Nov	Social evening. Curry/hotpot. Tickets on sale at October meeting.
12 Nov	Monthly meeting. Peter Levy 'Oh, Mr Porter'

**FORTHCOMING HOLIDAYS AND VISITS**

Contact: Margaret McDermott or Ruth Smith

18 Oct – 1 Nov	Cruise 14 nights on Celebrity Silhouette. Visiting Valetta, Kefalonia, Ashdod, Haifa, Kusadasi, Piraeus, Catania and Naples Cost approx£1450 including flights and transfers. Offers available on board credit, gratuities included or drinks package.
29-30 Nov	Visit to LUDLOW staying at the Holiday Inn near Telford on a half board basis. Highlights of the trip include: • Blists Hill Ironbridge. Blists Hill is an open air Victorian town. • The Ludlow Medieval Fayre. • train ride from Kidderminster on the Severn Valley Railway to Bridgnorth where there is a funicular up the cliff side.  Price £195 per person in a double or twin bedded room. Single room supplement of £20. All admissions to attractions and train tickets are included in the price.  BALANCE AT SEPT MEETING

**We would like ideas for next year's holidays and day visits. Please contact Ruth Smith, Margaret McDermott, Sue Harlin, Pat Gorie, June Gibbs or Margaret Meekley.**

**U3A NORTH WEST REGION ACTIVITIES**

<http://u3asites.org.uk/code/u3asite.php?site=421&page=3>

13 Sept	U3A One-Day Family History Conference. Dome, Buxton.
9 Oct	Arts Study Day: Every picture tells a story. Bramhall U3A. Cost £15. Booking required.
24 Oct	In the Mood. Deeside & Wirral U3A Network. A day to promote well-being and active ageing. Booking form on website

**U3A NATIONAL EVENTS**

9-10 Sept	<b>U3A conference.</b> More Time to Learn. Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester. Booking now closed
30 Sept	London. Royal Institution autumn meeting. Women in Science and Engineering. Cost £20. Details from National Office.
15 Oct	Exploring Elgar. Elgar Museum, Worcester. Cost £17. Limited places. Apply to U3A National Office.

**LOCAL HAPPENINGS**

Now-18 Nov	Heroes of Adventure. WW1 exhibition. Quarry Bank
3 Sept	Two gentlemen of Verona. RSC Live Stockport Plaza
4 Sept	Medea. NT Live. Stockport Plaza
4 Sept	Wuthering Heights. Buxton Opera House
16 Sept	NLive Streetcar named Desire. Plaza
18 Sept	Madame Butterfly from Sydney Harbour. Stockport Cineworld
24-27 Sept	Beauty & the Beast. Birmingham Royal Ballet. Lowry Theatre.
27 Sept	Pemberley Walk. Lyme Park
10 Sept – 4 Oct	Romeo and Juliet. Victoria baths. Manchester. Home Theatre
1-3 Oct	Ballet Rambert. Lowry Theatre
2 Oct	Film. WWI - Life on the Home Front in NW England. Plaza
8-11 Oct	Swan Lake. English National Ballet. Palace Theatre.
31 Oct	La Traviata Opera House
1 Nov	Madama Butterfly. Opera House
17-22 Nov	Agatha Christie's Black Coffee. Opera House
30 Nov	Classics by Candlelight. Mozart Festival Orchestra. Bridgewater Hall

## COULD YOU HOST AN OVERSEAS STUDENT?

There are international students at our universities hoping to have the privilege of meeting people who live in the UK. Having a well-educated younger person from another part of the world visit you for a day, a weekend, or over Christmas, is an ideal way of exchanging ideas about your respective cultures. It's an opportunity to take a pride in our own country and to understand more about another one, while showing kindness to someone far from home. It's also great fun. If you're not sure about doing this on your own, why not get together with another U3A member and make a great international weekend of it?

HOST is a well-established charity whose hosts are volunteers. Please see [www.hostuk.org](http://www.hostuk.org) or call our local organiser Martin Gill on 07758 950043.

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## WEA AUTUMN COURSES

A number of courses start in September at centres in Disley, Cheadle and Stockport. Topics include Painting and Drawing, Music appreciation, Digital Photography, Literature and Music appreciation.

You can get details online at [www.nw.wea.org.uk](http://www.nw.wea.org.uk) or by contacting the Regional office on 0151 243 5340, email [northwest@wea.org.uk](mailto:northwest@wea.org.uk)



## FUTURELEARN – NEW COURSES

FutureLearn is an Open University company, partnered with over 20 of the best UK and international universities, as well as institutions with a huge archive of cultural and educational material, including the British Council, the British Library and the British Museum.

FutureLearn courses are short courses accessible on mobile, tablet and desktop and they are free to study. A number of new courses start in September including:

- English Language
- Irish History
- Scottish Independence
- Heart health
- Hadrian's wall

Go to

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/upcoming> to find out more and to register for a course.

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## HEALTHIER TOGETHER CONSULTATION



Healthier Together is the name of a review of health services in Greater Manchester. The review is recommending that hospitals in the area are re-organised. Three hospitals have been identified as offering specialist services – MRI, Salford Royal and Royal Oldham. A recent press release from Stepping Hill Hospital asks residents to contribute to the consultation which closes on 28 September 2014.

If the plan goes ahead, Stepping Hill will lose its specialist medical and surgical services and become a general hospital carrying out day case and non-complex operations. It would maintain its A&E service, but only for emergency cases where no surgery was needed. Stepping Hill believes that it needs to be a specialist hospital to ensure that we can continue providing the very highest level of emergency surgery and to provide services for people living in Stockport and High Peak.

There is a questionnaire which is asking people to choose which hospitals they think should be specialist hospitals at [www.healthiertogethergm.nhs.uk/feedback](http://www.healthiertogethergm.nhs.uk/feedback). The strongest options in respect of services which should be at Stepping Hill Hospital are options: 5.1 or 5.4. There are also public events where you can give your views:

- Tuesday 22nd July, 10am - 1.30pm, New Mills Town Hall, Spring Bank, New Mills
- Tuesday 12th August, 2pm - 5.30pm, Alma Lodge Hotel, Buxton Road, Stockport
- Monday 18th August, 7pm - 9pm, Round Table Hall, Market Street, Glossop Derbyshire SK13 8AR
- Thursday 4th September, 7 - 9pm at The Village Hotel & Leisure club, Cheadle Road, Cheadle
- Monday 15th September, 6pm - 8.00pm, Octagon, The Pavilion Gardens, Buxton SK17 6BE
- Wednesday 24th September, 5 – 7pm Cheshire Conference Centre, Edgeley Park, Hardcastle Rd, Stockport

## IT CORNER - BE CAREFUL WITH YOUR EMAIL

There have been a few spam emails circulating amongst U3A members over the last few weeks. Your email system may well intercept these and mark them as Spam. In 2013 100 billion spam emails were sent every day. Most of these are to non-existent email addresses but it still leaves an awful lot winging around and some may well end up in your inbox.

Spam messages may appear to come from organisations such as banks, insurance companies and government departments such as HMRC – this is called phishing. They may invite you to click on a link in the email and may ask for personal details such as date of birth or PIN numbers. Sometimes the link will show you that this is not a genuine site but sometimes it is hard to tell. You will never be asked for your security details in this way so if this happens just close down the site and delete the email.

As a general rule you should be careful about any email you don't recognise or that looks odd. Some emails have attachments – if these are not from someone you recognise they may cause your computer to become infected with a virus or stuff called malware. Never open any attachments if you don't know what they are. If you are not sure just delete the email without opening anything.

And a last point, never reply to any email you are not sure about – this tells the spammer that your email address is a real one and you may well then start getting a lot more spam messages.

Do ask me if you want any further information or advice

Diane Saxon

## MEDIA REQUEST

A national journalist is looking to interview people who regularly travel far afield using their free bus pass. If you, or anyone you know do this please get in touch with [julietstott@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:julietstott@yahoo.co.uk)

## SCRABBLE QUIZ

In this edition we have a Scrabble game puzzle. The aim of the puzzle is to make a word that scores as many points as possible. Your seven tiles are shown below. The blank tile can be used as any letter but scores no points.



A word on a Red square scores treble points; a word on a Pink square scores double. A letter on a dark blue square scores treble; a letter on a light blue square scores double. Only words included in the Official Scrabble Words dictionary are allowed.



There will be a small prize for the entry with the highest score for a correct word as given in the Official Scrabble words dictionary. Entries should give your word and indicate where it is placed, and state the score it has gained.

In the event of a tie the winner will be chosen at random from the entries with the highest score. The decision of the judges is final. Please send your entries to the Editor at [newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk). The closing date for entries is **28 October**.

## GROUP REPORTS

### BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 1 & 2

July Meeting: - At our July meeting we enjoyed a mixed bag, including a very quirky ballet and a look at one of the Royal Ballet's rehearsals, finishing with a documentary "Jerome Robbins".

#### Prog 1

"Still Life at the Penguin Cafe" - The Royal Ballet" - Choreographer David Bintley

This is a most unusual and quirky ballet approx 40 mins and very enjoyable. The costumes and make up were quite brilliant as was the dancing.

#### Prog 2

"Alice's in Wonderland" a Royal Ballet Rehearsal". The hard work and hours these dancers put in is remarkable to say the least. We shall watch the full ballet at a later date.

#### Prog 3

Jerome Robbins Documentary part 1 & 2 including dancing extracts from various films and ballets. This gentleman is renowned for his choreography in musicals and ballets of all descriptions such as "Westside Story", "Fiddler on the Roof", "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" and many more.

"Fancy Free" excellent dancing from the early years (1949). This ballet was eventually remade into a film called "On the Town" which featured "Frank Sinatra" "Gene" Kelly" and Jules Munshin"; the story of three sailors on shore leave in New York (great dancing).

### August Meeting:-

#### Prog 1

At this meeting we enjoyed the light hearted ballet "The Merry Widow" which is sheer entertainment with its lilting melodies, breathtaking decor and glorious dancing! Enjoyed by all.

#### Prog 2

Documentary - "Dancing in the Blitz" Introduced by David Bintley - Director of the Birmingham Ballet Co. This documentary from Sky Arts 2 was well worth watching and was a really good insight as to how entertainment carried on throughout World War 2.

The Royal Ballet became trapped in Amsterdam as the Germans started their bombing raids on Holland; thankfully they made it home enduring a very dangerous situation.

Sheila Hall

### BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 3 & 4

The group continues to meet from 2-4 pm. either on the 4th Wednesday or 1st Thursday of each month.

23rd July / 7th August: We saw a full-length ballet La Dame aux Camelias, choreographed by John Neumeier and set to music by Chopin. It was danced by the Paris Opera Ballet and based on the play by Dumas, which tells the tragic story of Marguerite Gautier.

27th August / 4th September: The theme was Ballet in America – the choreographers George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins. The session included several short pieces and the ballets La Sonnambula, In the Night and The Concert.

At the next session we will see a full-length ballet: La Sylphide.

Meg Humphries

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## CHURCHES AND PUBS

### Visit to Waddington, Lancashire 22 July

Waddington is situated on the edge of the Forest of Bowland, an area of outstanding natural beauty. It is also, as I discovered the day after our visit, where my paternal, great, great, great grandparents are buried. (I now have a photo and a transcript of the tombstone.) Today, St Helen's Church stands proudly where a church has stood for at least eight centuries.

The present building has been rebuilt a few times, the last two being in 1824 and 1901. The oldest part of the present church is the tower of 1501 and a small section of wall in the south-eastern corner of the church, near the chancel and Waddow Chapel.



The church is dedicated to St Helen, the mother of Constantine the Great, who introduced Christianity to the Roman Empire in AD312, during his reign as Emperor. A window in the church shows St Helen flanked by Wadda, a Saxon chief, from whom it is thought Waddington derives its name and also of Henry V1, who sought refuge during the Wars of the Roses in Waddington Old Hall. The church has a rood screen, showing the crucified Christ, Mary, his mother and St John the Evangelist. Over the altar there is a reredos showing the Nativity scene, which we were told, was very rare. The font dates from the 1400's.

Our day, finished with an excellent meal in the Lower Buck Inn (apart from the Lancashire Hotpot.) Our thanks must go, as usual, to Paul Kenneth and also to our Church Historian, Margaret Cunliffe.

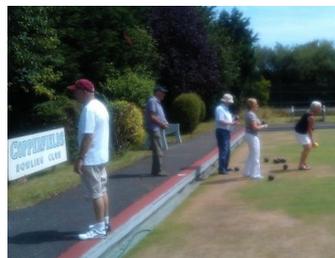
Margaret Glynn

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## CROWN GREEN BOWLING GROUP

Prestatyn July 2014

What a great Day Out we had!



This year our Day Out clashed with a trip to London so a number of our usual group were unable to make it. We arrived at Copperfield's Bowling club at around 11.15am to be welcomed by Len and Pat (who have a holiday caravan locally and are members there as well) and were served tea and coffee and homemade cakes including 'Bara Brith' - a sort of Welsh fruit loaf.

We then practised until mixed teams were drawn and the round robin social competition organised. After a couple of rounds we ate our packed lunch and cooled off from the hot sun (who needs the Mediterranean when we get the weather!) After lunch we finished our competing and worked out the scores. Bill and Margaret won the competition with Barbara and Eric coming second. A raffle was drawn with Wine and

chocolates as prizes. We then had a fun game called a 'Spider' which was won by Bill.

Finally we went to eat at a local Carvery - the 'Ring 'O Bells'. Salads were the order of the day for most with a well deserved drink.

Many thanks to Len & Pat for their unstinting hospitality and to Margaret and Roy for organising the event.

DO IT AGAIN NEXT YEAR? - YES!!

Margaret Evans

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## CURRENT AFFAIRS

The first item at our July meeting was Gaza and what was happening to the citizens of that overcrowded strip of land. We commented on the privations and conditions imposed on them by the Israeli Government. They are short of water, fuel, food, work, decent living conditions, medical supplies and dignity. It was assumed that their lives could improve immeasurably if the nine year old Israeli blockade was lifted and they were allowed to conduct their own affairs as normal nations do but this is not allowed by Israel, with the approval of the U.S.A. So like all subjugated people they have rebelled, in this instance by shooting primitive rockets into Israel (which seem to be ineffectual and more of a nuisance than a threat). To say that the Israeli response was over the top is to understate the case greatly. But with the U.S. on their side who is going to tell them?

We then moved onto the situation being stirred up by the Russians in Ukraine. They say that they only want that bit of the Ukraine where the population speaks Russian. If this is a valid excuse for stealing land belonging to other countries, how many English speaking territories can we claim? Obviously the Russians (Mr Putin) are playing a deeper game but none of us could say what it is. But it has been suggested that we punish them by not allowing them to host the World Cup in 2018. That'll show 'em!

Third on our list was the accepting of donations, by the Conservative Party, from Russian "oligarchs" as well as Cameron and Boris selling time on the tennis courts. Not much to say, except whatever happened to the dignity of high office?

Next was the subject of the GDP growing at a faster rate than any other country? It was pointed out that it all depends on where we are starting from. If we are starting from a lower base than the countries we are being compared with we are almost bound to be growing at a faster rate. As usual we are told only part of the story.

Next we discussed the contentious subject of fracking. We agreed that it could prove to be disastrous if the geologists and drilling engineers have got it wrong. Comparisons were made with the coal mines from the aspect of subsidence but this is not a good comparison. Mines are large cavities which are now flooded, whereas fracking will create a different type of structure where the gas and oil have been extracted. We had no reliable information on the dangers or otherwise of fracking but if it works as the experts say it will and if the product is not exported it will relieve the UK of dependence on other countries which can only be good both politically and economically.

Finally the old political football of immigration raised its head. All the politicians are queuing up to see who can promise the direst treatment of immigrants. Who would believe that we are coming up to an election?

Jim McDermott

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## DINING GROUP

After a lapse of ten months Jeanette Bell and Dorothy Neillands have agreed to run the Lunch Club. As this group was so successful under the leadership of Jean and Margaret we saw no reason to change the format, therefore we will meet for lunch at a chosen venue every other month, with plans for an evening meal sometime next summer.

For our first venture we selected Romanys at the Brookside Garden Centre and were delighted with the response and soon reached our target of thirty names.

Our next lunch on December 16th will be at the Hanging Gate in Chapel En Le Frith where we hope to take a party of forty. Names for this will be taken at the October meeting.

Jeanette and I would like to officially thank Margaret Meekley and Jean Drinkwater for the help and encouragement they gave us in re-starting this group.

Dorothy Neillands

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## GARDENING

### DOROTHY CLIVE GARDEN WEDNESDAY 16TH JULY



It was a lovely relaxing garden to walk in for the seven who travelled to this Staffordshire garden, originally created by an Army colonel for his ailing wife. It was easy to get lost in the many paths, whilst admiring the unusual flowers and shrubs, or exploring the walks in

the quarry garden (DVDs showing how colourful this could look in late Spring). Our two sub-groups finally met up again in the pleasant tea rooms, with tasty homemade sandwiches and cakes, whilst Walter tried to define the changes made since his last visit. A visit of almost five hours on a balmy bright day showed how much there was to see in this excellent, very English, garden.

### GARDENING VISIT REPORT 17TH JULY

Mount Pleasant Garden, just off the A556 near Kelsall, deserves to be much better known. We were bowled over by the lush vegetation, a lovely blend of unusual plants and bushes, and the maze of wandering paths, all coexisting beneath specimen trees and woodland.

The gardens hug the sandstone slopes beyond Delamere, with views towards the Dee valley plain, and vary from real hot suntraps with tropical palms, to cool areas with candelabra primroses and a Japanese garden too. The gardens are punctuated with fascinating carvings and features, and are less planned than most, but our group found them very appealing. We were also pleased to see a nearby garden centre, with good choice at reasonable prices. Altogether a good day out!

## AUGUST GARDEN VISIT 2014

Only four were able to dodge various commitments, but were lucky to see the outstanding Abbeywood gardens, near Delamere. Only opened to the public in the last five years, and still being extended in striking new ways, they were very colourful, and displayed lots of novel ideas.

First step outside was into a lush tropical/exotic garden with bananas, echiums, and brugmansiae interwoven with



strange colourful flowers we struggled to name, then a traditional set of geometric water gardens but unusually with verbena bononiensis planted in clumps for effect. Next was the narrow Pergola walk, bordering colourful herbaceous borders, which led to the newest features – ten island herbaceous beds in wide grassland - four with mixed plants, and six in sweeping curves of contrasting colours using masses of individual varieties for effect.

Bright modern tea rooms, doubling as wedding function rooms at weekends, served slightly pricey, but good quality food, to complement our visit. Many thanks to Sam and Irene for recommending this garden.

Next Meeting – September 17 - John Ainscoe's House.

Walter Mason

## MARPLE BRIDGE & MELLOR U3A OPEN GARDENING GROUP

Wollerton Old Hall and Hodnet Hall, two fabulous gardens in Shropshire, were the destinations for the Gardening Group in July.



The seemingly mature planting at Wollerton Old Hall belied the fact that it was only started in 1984, with a formal design leading visitors to differently themed "rooms" and as the garden met the surrounding countryside giving way to a more informal planting style.

In contrast, the gardens at Hodnet used pools of water set like a necklace in a chain with rich planting surrounding them as the theme here. Abundant flowers interspersed with a multitude of different species of ferns, hostas and native trees made the visit to this garden a delight.

The Groups Annual Horticultural show in August was a successful and lively affair with lots of prizes given for the best of our members produce and floral displays from luscious peaches to dainty posies.

Forthcoming events for Gardening Group members are an October outing to RHS Harlow Carr in Harrogate for autumn colour and in November our AGM and planning meeting invites members to contribute ideas for the 2015 programme. (Meetings are held on 2nd Wednesday of month (except on our jolly days out!) at Marple Methodist Church at 9.45 a.m. Cost £2 including coffee.)

Jean Parrish

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## GERMAN

After a long summer break we shall be starting again on Friday 12th September when I hope everyone will have a lot to report on their summer activities.

Marlene Brookes

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## HERITAGE

The Heritage Group recently travelled to Leeds to visit the MARKS IN TIME EXHIBITION. This celebrates the role that Marks and Spencer has played in peoples' lives for nearly 130 years. It has unique artefacts that track the journey from a market stall to international retailer and it gave insights into changing life styles and British social history.

With a guide we walked back through the University campus with a chance to admire (or otherwise) the Victorian buildings and the more recent concrete ones. We passed through the M & S Trinity flagship store, saw the site of the first M & S store, entered the glass arcades where in 1904 Mr Marks had eight units, open from dawn to dusk and with late shopping on Saturday nights for people leaving the theatre.



Our final destination was the Market Hall – very similar to the one in Stockport – where in 1884 Michael Marks, with a £5 loan, opened his first market stall and everything was priced at 1d. This certainly was a story of “from rags to riches” but also one of visionary and determined men – Tom Spencer with financial ambition and Michael Marks with retail vision.

We then travelled to Lotherton Hall for lunch and a chance to visit the gardens together with a guided tour of the house. It had been in the Gascoigne family for many generations but it is now owned by Leeds City Council as Sir Alvary Gascoigne bequeathed the house and contents to them since his son had been killed in the war. It was a light and well-proportioned house in the Edwardian style and there was common agreement that we would be happy to live there. During the First World War it was used as a convalescent home for wounded soldiers, so some of the bedrooms reflected this with items and photos of that time. There was a costume gallery, which brought back memories and admiration for the 18-inch waists. Of particular note was a siren suit – an all in one garment - that is now back in fashion as a onesie!!

The weather stayed fine and sunny and so a most informative and enjoyable day was had by all. Many thanks to the organisers.

Judith Ridgway

**HISTORY**

Michael Collins and the formation of the Republic of Ireland

Michael Collins played a very influential role in the establishment of the Republic of Ireland. Born in West Cork in 1890 he grew up in an atmosphere of nationalistic fervour.



In 1906 he went to work in London where he stayed for ten years, during which time he became a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB): later to become the IRA. He participated in the Easter Uprising of 1916 in Dublin, and it was their defeat against a superior military force that made Collins realise that pitched battles were costly and foolhardy: this led to a change to guerilla tactics. He formed a network of spies to keep the IRB well informed and also organised for arms to be smuggled into Ireland from Manchester, Liverpool and London.

The devastating conflict continued, but eventually, on the 6th December 1921, Collins signed the Anglo Irish Treaty creating the Republic of Ireland but excluding the six northern counties which would remain part of the United Kingdom. This caused a huge rift within the IRA which resulted in civil war between those who supported the Treaty and those hard line nationalists who did not believe in partition. On the day Collins had signed the Treaty he was reported to have said, 'I have just signed my own death warrant', which was very prophetic as by the 22nd August 1922 he had been assassinated by the IRA.

The next History Group meeting will be held on 17th September when Marlene Brookes will present a topic entitled Austria Post WW1.

Pam Curley

**OPERA**

I have started a small opera group, which has met once so far. We opened with an excellent recording of The Marriage of Figaro - I reckon that if it's good enough for Glyndebourne to open with, then it's good enough for me.

At each meeting we will see a complete opera, and a varied programme is planned. The group will meet once per month on a Monday afternoon, at my house which is in Poynton. Though numbers are limited, I have a few places left. Contact me if you are interested.

Meg Humphries

## PHILOSOPHY

The August meeting was a discussion on epistemology; the theory of knowledge - a subject that has interested philosophers throughout the ages. We focused on the question 'how do we know that the people we think are our parents are really our parents'. This led to discussion about the basis of knowledge in general - how do we know what we think we know? What is that knowledge based on? Is it really true?

At the next meeting we will be exploring the work of Edmund Burke. If you would like more details of the group please contact Lisa Czyniewska

## PHOTOGRAPHY

The topic at our July meeting was Local History. The completion winners this time were 1st Lower Hillgate by Diane Saxon; 2nd Chadkirk Chapel by Walter Mason and 3rd Bramall Hall also by Walter Mason.



The topic for the August meeting was 'Shadows'. The winning photograph was from Diane Saxon with a photo taken on a recent gloriously sunny day in Jodrell bank arboretum. The second was a photograph of Chris Gibson's gate. The next Meeting is on September 18 at Brian Beck's House. We will discuss the recent exhibition of photographs and explore why some pictures were popular, and others less so!



Walter Mason

## READING

Our August book was The Cleaner of Chartres by Salley Vickers, a story about the cathedral at Chartres. We had a very good discussion at the meeting. The book for September is The Luminaries by Eleanor Catton which won the 2013 Booker prize. This is a hefty read with more than 800 pages so we need to see how many of us persevere to the end!

Sue Dintinger

## SINGING

The choir has performed two concerts in August, at the Baptist Church in Hazel Grove and at Dystlegh Grange in Disley.



The audiences enjoyed a selection of songs from Oliver! including 'Consider yourself', 'Oom Pah Pah', and 'Who will buy?' We sang two spirituals, 'Oh Lord what a Morning', and 'Swing Low, Sweet Chariot'. We continued with a selection of Eva Cassidy songs, 'Wade in the Water', 'Autumn leaves' and 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow'. Our programme concluded with 'You'll never Walk Alone' from 'Carousel' and 'Jerusalem' in honour of the Commonwealth Games.

We return to practices on 12th September and welcome new and returning members in preparation for our winter concerts and the concert for High Lane U3A in April 2015. Prospective singers need to be able to sing in tune but it is not necessary to read music. We plan to sing some pieces from 'Oliver' and songs from our 'Music for Occasions' book among others.

Thanks to Margaret and Tony for all their time and hard work without which this would not be possible. Special thanks are due to Pam for her announcements.

Pam Wood

## WALKING

### EARLY JULY WALK

Jeff Mortimer took a group of 10 to the headwaters of the River Goyt, which featured long sections of the former historic Cromford – Whaley Bridge railway. In a cold strong wind, we started at the summit of the incline from the Errwood reservoir dam, and followed the flat trackway to the Burford tunnel. Currently closed, we had to climb over the moors to the Buxton side, and after a coffee stop, descended through woodland to Beet, and a picturesque lakeside garden (remembered from Alison and Brian’s Ring of Trees walk). The cold moorland wind vanished, and in the much warmer Buxton air we had a toughish climb back to the former railway, with glimpses of the Cat and Fiddle road twisting and turning below.

After a long former railway stretch, we turned up to Burford Moor, and picked up a stony path winding between the emerging heather and tall bracken, eventually bringing us down to the infant Goyt, but more importantly to a lunch break in a lovely streamside spot, guarded by a solitary kestrel, and overlooked by footpath sign repairers. After, there was some tricky bracken walking till in sight of Errwood reservoir, when a wide track, and a narrow path climbing through the ripe bilberries (locally called wimberries), which in the hot close conditions became a somewhat unwelcome way to take us back to our cars.



It had been fairly tough going at times, perhaps 6 ½ miles walked, but there were lots of wide moorland views, plenty of historical railway interest, and the lush bracken paths, to make this a walk with a difference, for which we thanked Jeff.

## WALK 31 JULY



David Burke, successfully leading his first walk for us, took a group of 9 to a quiet, little known backwater, near to Chapel-en-le-Frith. Starting from Ford, within sight of the well-known Chestnut Centre, we undulated on rarely used field paths, and saw a succession of tiny hamlets, farms, and halls, with green and pleasant views in all directions. A light, but warm drizzle hid the distant hills for a time, and made some stretches slightly slippery, but most of the going was easy, except for a few stiles and inclines. David has family connections with the area, and local knowledge, so recounted several interesting tales and facts, especially about the four halls – Ford, Bagshawe, Slacke, and Bowden.

A smaller group toasted David’s walk afterwards at the nearby Fallow Deer roadhouse, where Marstons and Jennings beer went down a treat!

**Advance notice** - WALKING AWAY BREAK 2015 is from 1 May 2015 for 3 nights staying at the Long Mynd Hotel, Church Stretton. Contact Steve Reynolds for details

Walter Mason

Please don’t forget to send all contributions for the next newsletter to me at [newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk) by Friday 31 October 2014. Thank you

**Diane Saxon**