

## FROM THE CHAIR

2016 is turning out to be quite an eventful year. We have had floods, temperatures of 30 degrees, gale force winds, violent thunderstorms and some quite cold days. Summer?

The politicians have been in a state of disarray; we have had the referendum and voted to leave the EU.

Our Olympic team did us proud however. Weren't the cyclists wonderful!

The committee has organised a Wine Tasting evening on 30 September to which we hope members will give full support. Tickets will be on sale at the September meeting.

We invited the local MP. William Wragg to our August meeting. He talked about his experiences as a new member of Parliament and gave us the opportunity to ask questions. He was one of the best speakers we have had and attracted the highest number of members to a Wednesday meeting.

There is to be an event in London on 22 November to celebrate reaching the milestone of 1000 U3As. The speakers will be Eric Midwinter who founded the U3A and Baroness Frances d'Souza Speaker of the House of Lords.

Let us hope that the weather and the political situation settles down in the next few months and we can look forward to a pleasant autumn.

Margaret McDermott

## WINE TASTING EVENING

30 September

Come and join your friends for a wine tasting evening. At this event, we will present six different wines for you to try; three whites and three reds and there will be cheese and biscuit snacks to clear the palette between wines.



Tickets are just £6 and will be on sale at the September meeting. Doors open at 7pm for a 7:30pm start. High Lane U3A members only please.

## ART EXHIBITION

There was a wide range of subjects on display at the Art exhibition at the July meeting. This attracted a lot of interest from members and much praise for the skills on display.



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## 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 November 2016 edition. Please can you get your contributions to me by 30 September?

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

### JULY MEETING

The speaker Karen Corcoran on her subject "The Lady Policeman" told us her story of how she became the first policewoman in the North West carrying out her duties from horseback. Joining Manchester and Salford police in 1975 as a cadet. Initially she looked likely to join the CID until equal opportunities legislation gave her a change of direction. She explained that the newly-formed Greater Manchester Police created openings previously unavailable to women, including the mounted section. As she had been riding since the age of three she applied and was accepted.

Her 28 years in the saddle saw her partner a number of horses. She told us of some of their temperaments, how there was a tradition of naming the horses after Dicken's characters and how the uniform, levels of equipment and protection changed during her duties patrolling Greater Manchesters streets, football matches and demonstrations. This was a most interesting talk.

Andre Lister

### AUGUST MEETING



A record attendance of over 150 members gathered to listen to Will Wragg MP for Hazel Grove talk about his experiences as one of the youngest MPs in the Commons. He talked about the induction process for new MPs led by the Whips and asking his first question at Prime Minister's question time only a few weeks in the job. In 2015, he sponsored a private member bill; the Criminal Cases Review Commission (Information) Bill which has since gained Royal Assent.

He also talked about the work of Committees and his role on the Education Select Committee. After this very interesting and engaging talk, Will then

responded to questions from the audience, which were many and varied.



### SUMMER SOCIAL EVENING 8 July

This was a new type of event for our U3A and grew out of a request from the Shakespeare group who wished to share some of their recent play readings with a wider audience of members.



The evening started with an excellent buffet from Reflections of High Lane and a fiendish quiz of quotations from Shakespeare and the Bible. Members of the Shakespeare group then read extracts from a number of plays including the Merchant of Venice, Richard II, As You Like It, Othello, Measure for Measure and Henry V. We also had some readings from the sonnets. For the finale the group presented a scene from Midsummer Night's Dream with Puck and Titania suitably arrayed.



A good time was had by all at this event and our thanks go to Steve Reynolds and all the members of the Shakespeare group.

Diane Saxon

## HIGH LANE VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

MUSICAL EVENING Saturday 29 October 7.30pm

"LEGENDS" of popular music from the 60's and 70's. An entertaining musical tribute performed by Kenny Stephens.

Supper included. Tickets £12.50 available from Linda Morton or any Committee member

## TABLE TOP SALE

Sunday 27th September, 11.30am to 1.30pm  
Tables £8; £10 on the day  
Come and grab a bargain. Refreshments available  
Contact Dorothy Graham

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## LEARN SOMETHING NEW THIS AUTUMN

### WILMSLOW GUILD

Numerous classes, courses and lectures are offered, including:

Alexander Technique, Ancient History, Archaeology, Art, Ballroom Dancing, Beekeeping, Botanical Painting, Bridge, Calligraphy, Canal History, Ceramics, Creative Writing, Drawing, Dressmaking, Embroidery, English Literature, Family History, Film History, Flower Arranging, French, Geology, German, History of Art, Italian, Mindfulness, Music Appreciation, Oil painting, Patchwork, Philosophy, Pilates, Poetry, Politics, Pottery, Quilting, Railway History, Religious Studies, Science lectures, Spanish, Stretch and Tone, Tai Chi and Quigong, Textiles, Painting, Wine Appreciation, Yoga.

Check

<https://www.wilmslowguild.org/courses/autumn/2016-17/> for the list of courses starting this Autumn.

### GLOSSOP GUILD

The new season starts October. Classes include Canals, World Empires, Neoliberalism, Sport and Leisure history. There are also single day and evening events throughout Autumn. You can get details and book online at [www.glossopguild.org](http://www.glossopguild.org)

## WEA

Courses starting in September and October include Painting, Modern Art, Cities and Civilisation. Madrid, Novels, Creative writing, Psychology and Digital photography.

You can visit <http://www.wea.org.uk/learn-wea/course-search> to find out what's on and book your place.

## FUTURELEARN

There are many new courses starting in September - the list below is just a few of those.

- Earth observation from space
- Managing your finances
- Spanish
- Genomics
- Robots
- Mindfulness
- Much Ado about Nothing
- Diabetes
- Smart Cities
- Nuclear Energy
- Brands
- Aging well

And many many more

You will need to register for the course(s) by clicking the Join link on the relevant web page  
<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses>

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## FREE DIGITAL MAGAZINES FOR LIBRARY USERS

Free digital magazines are now on offer for Stockport Library users. There are over 100 different magazines available including BBC Top Gear, Hello!, Ideal Home, Gardener's World, New Scientist, National Geographic and Amateur Photographer. Magazines must first be checked out through the website, but can then be downloaded onto a phone or tablet and read offline, via the Zinio for Libraries app, which is available for iPhone, iPad and Android.

For details, go to

<http://www.stockport.gov.uk/newsroom/zinio>

## FORTHCOMING U3A ACTIVITIES

14 Sept	Advances in Medical Imaging. Bernard Loveday
30 Sept	Wine Tasting evening 7 pm for 7:30
12 October	An afternoon of Oriental delights. Fatima
9 Nov	The Plaza cinema. Ted Doan

## FORTHCOMING HOLIDAYS AND VISITS

Contact: Margaret McDermott or Ruth Smith

29 Sept	CHESTER. Afternoon tea on canal boat. Leave Village Hall at 9:30am
18 Oct	BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATIONS. Fish and chips in Lytham. £22
2 Dec	Christmas lunch at Tatton Hall. £34.
23 May 2017	CORNWALL. Only 35 places available on this holiday. Deposit at October meeting.

## NATIONAL U3A EVENTS

22 Nov	A Celebration of 1,000 U3As - To mark reaching the milestone of 1,000 U3As, a special event is being held by the Third Age Trust at Friends House, London from 1pm to 5 pm. Eric Midwinter (founder of the U3A movement) and Baroness Frances d'Souza (Speaker of the House of Lords) will be addressing the hall. Tickets £5.00 from: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com">Eventbrite</a>
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## INFORMATION FOR GROUP LEADERS

Please remember that an Accident Report form needs to be completed for any accidents or incidents in your group. This is so that we can be covered by U3A insurance if necessary. You can find the Accident Report form in the Group Leaders area

[http://www.highlaneu3a.org.uk/d4\\_information/Group\\_Leaders\\_Page.html](http://www.highlaneu3a.org.uk/d4_information/Group_Leaders_Page.html) on the website.

Completed forms should be emailed to Les Birks.

## LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Now - October	Vogue 100: A Century of Style. Manchester Art Gallery
Now - Sept	Climate Control. Manchester Museum
8 Sept-15 Oct	A Streetcar named desire. Royal Exchange theatre.
10-17 Sept	Ladies in Lavender. Stockport Garrick.
15-17 Sept	Shakespeare Dream Bill. Birmingham Royal Ballet. Lowry theatre.
17 Sept	Turandot on Sydney Harbour. Stockport Plaza
18 Sept	Table top sale. High Lane Village Hall
22 Sept	The Threepenny Opera. NTLive. Various venues.
24 Sept	Organ coffee morning. Stockport Plaza
28 Sept	RSC Live screening. Cymbeline. Various venues
23 Oct	Legends. Musical evening. High Lane Village Hall.
28 Oct – 19 Nov	Breaking the code. The story of Alan Turing. Royal Exchange theatre.

## ADVANCE NOTICE

St Ann's Hospice Festival Choir Christmas concert. Tickets now on sale from the Bridgewater Hall. All profits from this concert go to the Hospice.

A coach will be going from the Park and Ride in Hazel Grove. Further details about the coach can be obtained from Carol Traffon.

## IT CORNER - TOP APPS FOR OVER-65s

Fix-my-street – report faults to local Councils  
 Fade – can alert your contact if you have a fall  
 PBA Bowling challenge – ten pin bowling on the phone  
 Dog whistler – does what it says  
 Stitch – find people for companionship in all its forms  
 Pill reminder!

Surprising that Pokemon-Go isn't on the list!

## GROUP REPORTS

### BALLET APPRECIATION GROUPS 3 AND 4

After a break for the summer, the Ballet Group started again on 1st September with a performance of *The Merry Widow*, by the Australian Ballet. Also included were short profiles of two dancers who are stars in Europe, but are not well known in this country: Vladimir Malakhov and Lucia Lacarra. I think that Lacarra is the best swan ever!

The Ballet Group has now held 42 meetings, with no repetition of material. To avoid showing increasingly obscure works, I intend to show some of the more well-known ballets again, but with different casts. Next on the agenda is *Giselle*, with Natalia Osipova and Carlos Acosta.

Meg Humphries

### CHURCHES AND PUBS

#### St Leonard's Church, Warmingham

The visit to Warmingham started off for most of the group with an unexpectedly lengthy car journey – what should have been a simple one-hour trip becoming two hours due to a traffic jam in Congleton caused by usual almost non-existent road works. Everyone eventually arrived at St. Leonard's to be met with some very welcome refreshments. We then listened to an interesting and educative talk regarding the history of the church, which is a Grade II listed building, and a little insight into village life given by one of the parishioners, an ex-headteacher.



There has been a church on the site for at least seven centuries – aged by the base of a red sandstone medieval cross in the churchyard dating back to 1298. The oldest part of the current building is the tower which was erected in 1715 from local hand-made blue bricks together with a wooden structure as the body of the church. The church was rebuilt in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century but the tower was left untouched which led to a locally well-known saying, emanating from the rector, Rev. Daniel Appleford, of *"Poor Parish, Proud People – New Church, Old Steeple"*. The new church was opened in 1899 seeming to dispel the theory of poor parish. It was dedicated to Leonard of Noblac, a monk who worked for the release of political and other prisoners and became their patron saint. The former church building contained four chapels, representing the four parishes worshipping there i.e. Elton, Moston, Tetton & Warmingham but was not large enough for the congregation, which is why it was rebuilt. Nowadays the area would seem to be fairly affluent.

The stained glass windows, depicting Christ's crucifixion in the East window and the Ascension in the South transept were designed by Marital et Chamogneule of Metz and were held up in transit due to the Franco-Prussian war. The windows of the North transept and South aisle depict the life of Christ and were made by Heaton, Butler and Bayne of London.

Surprisingly, electricity was not installed in the village until 1959. This then made the winding of the Church clock much easier as previously the key (2 feet in diameter) had to be turned by hand 276 times to keep the clock operational for a week. As usual the churchyard, with its ancient gravestones, was fascinating. The old village stone cross, dated 1298, was discovered with a sundial on top. This was probably repositioned when the old cobbled road was widened.

It is known that after the Norman Conquest in 1066 estates in Warmingham were granted to Randulphus, an ancestor of the Mainwarings, and later to William Trussell, his ancestor. Sir John Trussell was granted a licence by Edward III (1327-77) to fortify the church building, obviously not for peaceful reasons. According to church records, the Warmingham estates were sold to Sir Randolph Crewe but over the years the properties have been sold on with the Crewe family retaining the rights of patronage.

Later we all transferred to the White Lion hostelry and restaurant for much needed refreshment. Once again many thanks to Paul and Barbara for organising another enjoyable day out.

David and Joan Wheelhouse

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## **CRAFT AND NEEDLEWORK**

We have continued to be busy with our needles, producing a variety of items, including over 40 knitted potatoes for use in a kit designed to help autistic children and have also made more garments for Knitting for Peace. We were able to send off another parcel in recent weeks. It is amazing what can be produced out of oddments of wool! Some members of the group are now attempting to knit or crochet "knockers", comfortable prosthetics for women who have undergone mastectomies. We are planning another sale of embroidered cards and small gift items for the November General Meeting.

On August 4th we enjoyed a very tasty lunch at the newly refurbished "Crown" in Hawk Green. We can really recommend the fish and chips there!

Marlene Brookes

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## **CROWN GREEN BOWLING**

The Tuesday and Thursday morning sessions at Torkington Park have continued to attract a regular group of members and somehow we have managed to get quite a few games in, in spite of the mixed weather that we have experienced this year.

The Autumn Pairs Competition is now being planned and it is hoped to take place on the morning of 6th October. This will be followed, as usual, by lunch at somewhere reasonably close by. This has always been a fun, but competitive day, and enjoyed by all. I will be collecting names from the group members within the next few weeks.

Currently we do have room for a few more new members - should anyone wish to join us, please get in touch with me or come along on a Tuesday or Thursday morning and make yourself known

Margaret Evans, Group Coordinator

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## **DINING**

August saw the Dining Group support a local restaurant; The Red Lion. Thirty-five members attended on a lovely sunny day (one of the few this summer).

There were a few hiccups; the previous day we were notified two items on the menu were no longer available and alternatives were offered. There were no complaints and the eighteen people involved reselected. One of the items on the mains course was a Trio of Beer Battered Fish. When this arrived we were surprised to see only one

fish on our plates. Apparently it was all they had. However, it was a very nice piece of fish and the batter was excellent, very light and crispy and some said they preferred it to the trio but others were disappointed.

Overall it was a very enjoyable lunch. As usual, the meal was accompanied with plenty of chat and laughter. The food was good, nicely presented and plentiful; we may settle for two not three courses in future.

Jeanette Bell  
Dorothy Neillands

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## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### July meeting

Older Drivers and Their Driving Skills. The group felt that older drivers' skills are good and certainly no worse than younger drivers. Insurance companies must be confident in older drivers' skills as the insurance premium is often lower.

Controlling Borders. Post Brexit, a really big problem will be the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. There is no obvious solution and the problem could be repeated should Scotland vote to become independent and join the EU. However, should Britain be forced into an agreement which would allow free access in order to gain trading rights, then this would not be a problem, but then it removes any hope of controlling our borders, so back to square one.

Women in Power. It might be possible to say that women have broken through the glass ceiling. It is also possible that we might see Michelle Obama up there in the future. It was thought to be a good thing, but would it not also be a good thing for all politicians to be working together for the good of the country!

Cameron's Legacy. Suggestions were that he will be remembered for taking us out the EU and walking away: he should have stayed to face the music. It would seem that he did not have a plan which has amazed a lecturer in Germany and a French cartoon called us the 'Idiot British'. We hoped that we would all be around in two years so that we could discuss it again.

Drones. We are all aware that these have caused some problems at airports and now Amazon want to use drones for their deliveries. The papers have commented that this is not really practical - can they be shot down! We all agreed they should be banned.

Garden Bridge. Although more than £30million has already been spent on this project it was agreed that it should now be abandoned.

Trident. Albeit somewhat reluctantly, most of the group thought that we should have Trident, however, we know that this will not stop terrorism.

Donald Trump. Can he actually deliver on all his promises? It was a unanimous 'no': one member of the group suggested he should be call 'Donald Fart' as he is an old fart!

Will Labour ever be voted into power if Jeremy Corbyn is the leader? The general consensus was 'no', as it is very unlikely he could get a cabinet together.

Since the vote to leave the EU there has been a big increase in racist attacks, mainly against Asians and Poles. There is some difficulty in defining what is deemed to be a racist attack, but we did think that the media have been exaggerating the situation. Although figures quoted would support this, it could be that more incidents are being reported.

If we had another referendum, would the result be the same? Five members thought it would and four thought it would be different.

Pam Curley

### August meeting

As usual there was plenty of banter between members on the various topics we discussed.

Micro Beads mainly used in cosmetic products to bulk them up and reduce the cost of production. These beads are made out of plastic which is not bio-degradable. They are damaging the oceans and sea life and serve no purpose to humankind. The consensus was that they should be banned

Jeremy Corbyn and trains. His behaviour was out of character for him and he chose the wrong target.

Burkinis on French beaches and the possibility of hiding guns in them. Were the police over reacting and are these Moslem ladies flaunting their faith? you can make your own mind up on that one.

Education - should we go back to having grammar schools and technical schools; we were divided on this. We did however feel that there was a need for technical education.

The Olympic games. Many of the costs for the British team were funded by lottery funding and aimed at sports that were most likely to succeed. Some countries were not so fortunate. Could the money have been put to better use? We felt that the Russian athletes did not do so well; could it be that they were not allowed to take performance enhancing drugs?

Hinkley Nuclear Power Station - financed by China with French technology is on hold at the moment. Should the idea be scrapped? what about renewables wind power and tidal power? The population has grown quickly and we need to get a move on with a decision. Most of us were in favour of renewables.

Bombing in the Yemen by Saudis - is it for religious reasons or tribal. Should the UK be providing the Saudis with weapons? The arms industry is very successful in the UK. We felt it was immoral.

Hijab to be worn by Moslem police women in Scotland - will they have to sign a disclaimer in case they get a head injury. It is not a compulsory religious requirement. Why do they want to wear them? Is it because they want to show that they are different.

June Gibbs

Did you hear about the mathematician who's afraid of negative numbers? He will stop at nothing to avoid them.

A farmer counted 196 cows in the field. But when he rounded them up, he had 200.

## GARDENING

### July meeting - Bluebell Cottage Gardens

The six who went to Bluebell Cottage Gardens were bowled over by the improvements Sue Beesley had made, especially the massed perennials in the former top lawn. It made for a very pleasant visit, even if we didn't see Sue herself (at Tatton Show where she got a Silver Gilt to add to her medal collection). We all enjoyed the day .



### August meeting - Biddulph Grange



This visit was in ideal weather, with the Dahlia Walk already showing plenty of colour. Sadly, grandchildren duties and a recently arranged travel visit, depleted our numbers; a shame since there was so much variety to see and a big contrast with other gardens. On the other hand, the plethora of steps might have worried some of our group.

Walter Mason

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## GERMAN

The German Group had its final meeting before breaking up for the summer on 23rd July and we were able to celebrate the birthday of our newest member, Barry who brought us some delicious cupcakes to eat with our coffee. As a very European-minded group we had been much preoccupied in recent weeks with matters pertaining to the referendum, both in the lead up to it and the aftermath and it has been interesting and illuminating to read what our fellow Europeans have had to say about it.



Marlene Brookes

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## HISTORY

### Meeting 24 August

Michael Sparrow gave a very interesting talk on James I of England and VI of Scotland. It was James accession to the English throne, at the age of 37, that initiated the uniting of England and Scotland, although once he had arrived in London he really never went back to Scotland. He was anxious to try to please everyone, which was extremely difficult, with all the different religious factions, and also trying to keep good relations with both France and Spain. He was always suspicious of women who were thought to be witches and was instrumental in having many executed, as well as executing Jesuit priests who remained in the country after being told to leave. He was

always short of money and had great difficulty raising armies when it was felt necessary. His health deteriorated and when he died there was a general sense of relief: it was James who was known as the 'wisest fool in Christendom'.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 28 September when each member of the group will select a year of their choosing and find some significant events of that year to present to the group.

Pam Curley

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## OPERA APPRECIATION

12th / 26th July: We saw a very funny production of Rossini's *Le Comte Ory*, recorded at Glyndebourne in 1997. Not many operas make people laugh out loud, but this is one of them.

9th / 23rd August: As a change from stage productions, we watched the 1986 Zeffirelli film of *Otello*. This is Verdi's last tragic opera and it gives a very good interpretation of Shakespeare's play. An exceptional cast was led by Placido Domingo in the very demanding title role.

Next month I intend to show Handel's opera *Giulio Cesare*, staged by the Paris National Opera.

Meg Humphries

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## PHOTOGRAPHY

The competition for July "Shop Windows" was won by Diane with Walter 2nd and 3rd.



Craft: Royal Exchange Theatre



Faces: Prague



Greengrocers: Bramhall

The house Meeting in August was cancelled due to holidays, grandchildren etc.

However the Winter/Spring/Summer/Autumn display at the U3A Monthly Meeting attracted much attention, and 80 people cast votes for their favourite photos.

The winners (photos shown on right) were:

- Spring – Bob Barlow (bluebells)
- Summer - Walter Mason (bluetit)
- Autumn - Jeff Robinson (autumn tints)
- Winter - Diane Saxon (Chengde mountain resort)

Walter Mason



## QUIZ GROUP

The Quiz group continues to test itself against a wide variety of questions dreamed up by our members. Currently we are taking it in turns to devise and set the questions. In addition to the questions we have been devising activities to work on while we have our refreshment break. In July Margaret gave us some quotations to identify who said them and in August Rita gave us opening lines of books and poems to identify the author and the work.

Please contact me for details if you are interested in this group.

Diane Saxon

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## TRAVEL GROUP

### Travel/heritage group visit to Salford

On Wednesday 17 August we visited Salford and experienced two contrasting aspects of the city: the early Jacobean hall with a past stretching back to the 11th century and the ultra-modern architecture of Salford Quays. Ordsall Hall has been inhabited for centuries with much of the present house being the home of the Radcliffe family.



Our excellent guide gave us an illuminating tour of the house where we saw the miserable conditions of the servants' quarter in the attic and the splendour of the great hall below. Although much of the house has undergone recent restoration, there were still many original features to be seen. Most impressive was the Radcliffe bed, highly decorated in dark oak and probably extremely uncomfortable, loaned to the house by a Lebanese businessman who had bought it for his daughter as a "princess" bed at auction, outbidding Salford Council. He has graciously loaned it to the house for at least 5 years.

We were next taken to Salford Quays where many visited the Imperial War Museum, with two members unintentionally gatecrashing a British Legion group and getting a free lunch. We also had an opportunity to visit the Lowry, do some shopping and enjoy the pleasant sunshine in this very impressive area.



Marlene Brookes

### Suffolk holiday

On a bright and sunny morning 48 U3A members set off by coach to discover Suffolk.

Bury St Edmunds is a historic market town which grew around the gates of a Benedictine Monastery, St Edmundsbury Cathedral, with origins from 1503, is still light and airy, with numerous stained glass windows and colourfully decorated vaulted ceilings.

Visiting the Moyses Hall Museum we saw displays of everyday items found at the site of the original abbey. A gruesome reminder of the past was an iron gibbet cage used for encasing the bodies of criminals who had been hung and tarred, and then displayed to act as a deterrent to others. Later we were transported back in

time to 600 AD to experience life in a reconstructed Anglo Saxon village and learnt about the life of the first English settlers, which was harsh, short lived and unpredictable.

Margaret Meekley and Judith Ridgway

Cruising on the River Deben - After a hearty breakfast we set out for Waldringfield boatyard for our 2-hour cruise along the river Deben. We were escorted on board the MV Jahan, named after the 5th Mughal Emperor



of India, by the yard owner who moved down from New Mills 6 years ago. After a mandatory safety talk, by Bernie the skipper, we moved out into the tidal Deben Estuary, a Special Protection Area and within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Our on board commentary by Bernie told of its rich wildlife and history. The river has over the centuries served as thoroughfare to the area, including Romans who built villas, Sutton Hoo, the location of the ship burial of an Anglo-Saxon king and his treasured possessions. We passed Ramsholt church with its round tower which featured in Great Expectations, basking seals on a mud bank, many deep moored yachts. Kings Fleet the location

where Edward III fitted out his fleet for his 1338 expedition to Flanders and Bawdsey Manor the base for development of WWII radar. We turned about at Old Felixstowe, with the tower cranes of the modern container port visible across the marshes, and headed back up river on the falling tide.

Flatford Mill - Back on dry land we headed for Flatford and after a light lunch visited the site of Constable's most famous painting 'The Hay Wain' located between The Mill and Willy Lotts house. There was also time to stroll by the river Stour, enjoy views of Dedham Vale and visit the RSPB garden and view blue tit and great tit families being fed via nest box cameras.



Some members visited Ipswich and a few managed to have a very quick look round at some of Constable's paintings and Georgian furniture in the Christchurch Mansion.

Snape Maltings - A collection of shops, galleries, eateries and a concert hall all housed in a seven acre site around the Victorian Malting buildings, some of which are still in need of renovation. A boardwalk through the reed beds, supporting a variety of birds, took one by the river and inland to Henry Moore's sculptures. In the sun shine everyone seemed to enjoy the visit, many finishing with a cup of tea.

Southwold - A resort noted for its Georgian architecture and many beach huts. The town must be unique in having a lighthouse inland, surrounded by small houses. The weather was bracing, particularly for those who walked on the pier. Most enjoyed browsing in the independent shops, choosing souvenirs and visiting Adnams Brewery Shop and the fine pre-reformation church set in a leafy square. Coming back to the hotel there was short stop at Woodbridge to enjoy the harbour and sample the local ice cream.

Lavenham - Again the sun shone on us and the wonderful Tudor houses. Some chose to visit the Little Hall with homely rooms and a pretty colourful garden.

Ickworth House - Classical Italy in Suffolk, reflecting the Hervey family's passion for everything Italian. The Rotunda is a Neo-classical showcase housing an extensive collection of silver, made by the Huguenot silversmiths. The garden resembled an Italian garden, apart from the vast Victorian Stumpery.

Ruth Smith

## WALKING

### JULY WALK



Ron and Marjorie Rennell took 13 to Curbar Gap and a five mile route along and underneath Curbar and Baslow Edges. Highlights were the wide-ranging views, close-ups of rock climbers at work, and the return through ancient woodland and heathery outcrops.



The only downside was a minor accident to one of our party who later needed a couple of stitches – the first time a visit to A and E has been required for a walker, to my knowledge. But otherwise it had been a lovely walk, thanks to Ron and Marjorie.

### AUGUST TUESDAY WALK

The War Memorial at Frodsham was the starting point of Walter's walk, first taking us to the wide panorama of the Mersey valley; now scarred by a windfarm, blades silent in spite of a stiff breeze.



Initially the walk was below the thickly wooded Frodsham Edge. Carefully constructed steps took us down onto well maintained and pleasant tracks and paths. Twisted native trees gave way to a more ornamental mix, and later to the Foxhill Arboretum of the Chester diocese retreat. As we joined the Sandstone trail, the path was lined with alien Balsam and adjoined by Snidley Moor Wood. A short U-turn led to warm sunny grass walks, colourful with Ragwort, Willow Herb, and ripening Rowan berries – and a perfect lunch spot.

After lunch a short stiff climb gained an interesting viewpoint with relics of WW2 anti-aircraft gun surrounds, but our path was now above the escarpments, still wooded, then past blackberries, skirting Woodhouse Hill and its "Fort", and along until we reached the scrambly Dunsdale Hollow. Fortunately Abraham's Leap was dry and relatively easy, and the formerly scary Jacob's Ladder cliff is now bypassed by strong metal steps, so we progressed confidently, later above quarries safely fenced off, until suddenly leaving the edge onto the extensive car parks of Mersey View and Forest Hills Hotel, and back to the War Memorial round the corner. Everyone seemed well pleased with our first visit to this part of Cheshire.

### WEDNESDAY WALK

Louanne and Peter took us to Errwood to climb Shining Tor, the highest point in Cheshire (formerly Holme Moss before Ted Heath rearranged county boundaries). At first it was steep climbing, then more gentle ascent, in ideal bright weather for walking, until we gained the top – and coffee stop. Much of the long ridge to Cats Tor had been paved with large flags, not quite wide enough for two abreast, and requiring watchfulness to avoid trips – but they did keep feet dry on potentially



boggy ground. By now the sun was bright and hot as we made two right turns and followed the narrow trod to the shrine – and lunch. Hereabouts the grass was still damp and slippery, as two of our number found out; and erosion had made walking slightly trickier. But soon we gained the ruins of Errwood Hall, and a short path through rhododendrons to our cars after an excellent August walk, courtesy of Louanne and Peter.

Walter Mason

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#### **WHIST**

The Whist group recommences on Wednesday November 16th 2016. Please contact me if you are interested in this group.

June Gibbs

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