

Macclesfield U3A

Newsletter Spring 2019

Chairman's Message

Hello and notwithstanding it is a little late to say it, "I wish you a Happy New Year!"

Just saying that has made me reflect on whether, for me, the beginning of January really marks a new beginning. I am writing this in mid-January and the continuation of the rather overcast grey weather that seems to have persisted since before Christmas doesn't give me a sense of "new". Perhaps people with an outdoor focus regard early Spring in say March or early April as the new year and for many businesses it is 1st April and September for those in the education field.

I can sense Fay, our diligent and long serving editor, exhorting me to stop this musing so she will be relieved that this should be last time I tap the keyboard (doesn't have the same ring as pen to paper does it) to produce a Newsletter piece as your Chairman. As required by our constitution, having completed six years as a Committee Member and then Chairman, I will be retiring at the AGM. You will find the formal AGM notice below so please put the date (Thursday 25 April) in your diary now and do come along on the day to show support for all of those who do so much to facilitate the many Groups and events of our U3A.

Our numerous Activity Groups are of course the life and blood of all U3As and I have always admired the work put in by all of our Group Leaders many of whom are very long serving. Some recent work by Helen and Ruth, our Group Co-ordinators who support our Group Leaders and provide a link between them and the Committee, with assistance from Allan Trayes has recently provided even more insight into the work that goes into running a successful group: subject expertise, logistics and technical know-how to name a few. It is clear there is no one size fits all approach to running a group; for some it is fine for one person, usually the Group Leader, to run it whilst for others a team approach is best. So if your Group Leader is seeking help please do volunteer – it is surprising how taking responsibility for quite small tasks can be a big help.

I was delighted to see so many of you at the Christmas Party and once again a very enjoyable and successful event so yet again a huge thank-you to Allan Trayes and his team. Some members of Allan's Members' Mornings/ Christmas Party team are stepping down after many years of valuable service – could you help out? If so please contact Allan. One advantage of retiring as Chairman is that I won't be required (will I?) to wear the obligatory Christmas jersey at next year's party. Who will be wearing it?

That's it for now. So as ever a big thank you for all that you do for our U3A and I look forward, if not before, to seeing you at the AGM – which of course is now in your diary!

Steve Fry

Membership Secretary
Christine Johnston
membership@maccu3a.uk

Spring is a great time of year for taking up new interests and activities and is just around the corner.
It is also the time that U3A Membership fees are due for another year!

The good news is the cost of membership remains the same as last year, £26 for the period from April 1st 2019 to 31st March 2020. Payment is due by 1st April 2019 please.

Payment can be made 3 ways:

Bank Transfer/BACS:

Account: Macclesfield U3A Sort Code: 40-31-02 Account Number: 91244353

If you pay using BACS please use your surname and membership number as the reference.

Cheque

Cheques for £26 should be made payable to Macclesfield U3A, with your membership number or address on the back.

Cash

Payment by cheque or cash can be made at the Members' Mornings or posted to:
Mrs Christine Johnston, 27 Clifford Road, Macclesfield. SK11 8QE

Your membership number stays the same year on year. Standing Orders are discouraged. Members who still wish to pay this way must ensure your Standing Order is for £26, and it must be paid before 1st April 2019 please.

***N.B.** For further information about GDPR and Membership renewals please see p 6. Ed.*

Editor
Fay Bowling

Three new groups started last year, Croquet, Art Appreciation and Dipping into History. They are all doing well and I'm pleased to include their progress reports.

Has anyone any plans for a new group this year?

Also a very interesting item from the Geology group showing how easily treasures can be lost in this age of financial constraint on Local Authority spending.

And I love the Geology group photo – Barbara and the fish head fossil seem to be getting on very well despite the age difference of 180 million years!

Leaders Your entries for the 2019/20 Yearbook should be with me before May 16th please.

Art Appreciation
4th Tuesday
Ruth Abbott

To date our group has had two meetings and one excursion. As our third meeting coincided with Christmas, we decided to cancel it and have an outing a couple of weeks later instead.

So at the beginning of January a small band of members caught the train to Piccadilly in order to visit the Manchester Art Gallery. On the way we dropped into the Portico Library which is also on Mosley Street. This independent subscription library began in 1806 and the collection continues to be added to each year. There are free public exhibitions and all visitors can now enjoy a meal or drink in the cafe.

After a sustaining coffee in the Manchester Art Gallery, we viewed the special exhibition "Nordic Craft and Design" which highlights the superb quality and creativity inherent in design from the region. Furniture, fashion, lighting, ceramics and jewellery.....truly impressive and worth repeat visits.

Fortunately we were in time to participate in a special event in the exhibition "And Breathe....". This collection of artworks explores the relationship between art, positive mental health and wellbeing. We all had different responses to this - personally I found the experience really enlightening.

After lunch we viewed the exhibition "Martin Parr : Return to Manchester". This is a series of photographs documenting the lives of Mancunians over the last 40 years. His work shows how the lives of Mancunians have changed but also how there is continuity in how we live.

We had a very stimulating day and would encourage other U3A members to follow in our footsteps. You will be amply rewarded! By the way, if you do not want to walk to Mosley St, catch the free bus (No 1) from Piccadilly to Charlotte St and the Gallery is just round the corner.

In February we are off to Liverpool with a trip organised by McCarthy's Coaches. We can't wait!
Ruth Abbott

Bookworms 2
2nd Thursday 2.00pm
Linda Godfrey

Our Group continues to flourish although sadly two members died this year. After leading the group for about ten years I am handing over to another member, Linda Godfrey, who will be more than capable.

We have read a varied list of books this year from "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine", a number one best seller to "For Whom The Bell Tolls", a classic, "Do No Harm", non fiction, told by a neurosurgeon Henry Marsh and "The Tattooist of Auschwitz", plus eight more.

If anyone would like to join us they would be most welcome and should contact Linda via the U3A web page.

Pauline Stuart

Bookworms 3
2nd Thursday 10.15am
Jutta Willis

We currently have a vacancy in our group.

We take it in turns to choose a book to read and try to pick books which can easily be borrowed from the library. Recent books we have reviewed include "Conclave" by Robert Harris and "Factfulness" by Hans Rosling.

If you would like to join us, please contact me at the above number.

Bookworms 4
3rd Wednesday 2.00pm
Maggie Hayes

In a recent discussion we decided that joining a Book group really widens your horizons. So many of us used to read our favourite genre, but now we enjoy the challenge of reading all sorts of books suggested by the group. We are very often surprised and enjoy them, even though we may not like the look of the title. On the other hand we can really dislike them. That is what makes for our interesting discussions throughout the year.

We meet at each other's homes and enjoy a drink and cake or biscuits part way through the meeting. A list of books for the year can be found on the U3A website.

Stop Press New Group Rummikub
A game of strategy, similar to Rummy but played with tiles. Taster session Monday 11th February 2 – 4pm, then monthly. Contact Denise Jones for details.

Croquet Group
Tuesdays 10.00 – 12 noon
Macclesfield Cricket Club
David Lee

Last season we were very pleased to be able to add Croquet to our range of activities. The group played on the outfield of Macclesfield Cricket Club on Tuesday mornings from 10am to 12 Noon, and will be picking up this Spring where we left off. We hope to start back on 9th April, and then every Tuesday morning running through until the end of the Summer/early Autumn.

Most of the folk who started last year had not really played previously, and I think that quite a few soon realised what an 'addictive' and exciting sport it is! So, if any new players would like to join us, you will be very welcome, as we are planning some initial sessions to introduce newcomers to the delights of the sport!



Photos – David Lee

Last season we were grateful to U3A friends from the Congleton Croquet group (now in its

fifteenth year!) who helped to set up the group. We hope this year to have reciprocal visits to their group, as we did last season, and we have also been contacted by Buxton U3A inviting us to visit their group.



Please contact David if you are interested in

taking part, or for any further information.

Crown Green Bowls
Every Wednesday, April to September
10.00 am – 12 noon
Terry Riley

As Easter is late this year I think the green will be open at the start of April so our season will start on Wednesday 3rd April 10am, West Park.

The green looks good, all we need now is a summer like last year.

New members welcome; all levels catered for .

Diners' Club
Local Restaurants
Alternate Months 6.30 p.m.
Jackie Boulton

Please look on the U3A website or phone me for details of our next meal out .

We always look forward to welcoming new people and you can join us as often as you wish. Maximum of 20 people at each meal.

Jackie Boulton

Dipping into History
4th Friday 2.00pm
Gawsworth Methodist Community Hall
Maggie Hayes

We have a programme for the next few months which we have tried to vary to include Local, Social and World History. It will vary between having a Speaker from our group or we will find out about a subject and come together and share our findings.

We are also hoping to arrange some visits.

If you want any further information give me a ring. I am hoping to put information on the U3A website very soon.

Discussion Group
1st Thursday 10.00 am
Chris Hewitt

- 7th Feb:** 'Feminism' Linda
- 7th March** Open forum
- 4th April:** 'Brexit, what price freedom?' Linda
- 2nd May:** 'Popular Music' Chris
- 6th June:** TBA
- 4th July:** 'Happiness' Pauline
- 1st Aug:** 'Retirement living choices' Allan
- 5th Sept:** TBA
- 3rd Oct:** TBA
- 7th Nov:** 'Major utilities, should they be in private or public hands?' Allan
- 5th Dec:** TBA

Other suggested topics may include: Knife/gun crime, Waste, Fashions impact on economy/environment, Crisis in Social housing supply, Making friends with 'Alexa' good/bad/dangerous? Dates to be confirmed.

European Studies
1st Tuesday 7.30 pm.
Norton Wragg

Whether we leave the European Union or not European countries are still our nearest neighbours and the ones we are most likely to visit. Our group aims to discover as much as we can about each country and its people. We also look at major events which have affected Europe and shaped the continent's future. Everyone is able to make a contribution and we don't get too serious and academic about our subjects! All we hope is that we enjoy our meetings and go away having learned something new about the subjects discussed.

We meet monthly, except August, as a house group. We would welcome new members who share our interest. Please give me a call for more information. No knowledge of Europe is required just a wish to expand our horizons!



NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 25th April, 2019

The Annual General Meeting [AGM] of Macclesfield U3A will be held on Thursday 25th April, 2019 at Calvary Church, Merebank Rd, off Earlsway, Macclesfield SK11 8RH at 10.00 for 10.30am.

Members wishing to place an item on the agenda, make a nomination for Chairman, Vice-chairman or membership of the General Committee should let the Secretary have details in writing or by e-mail by Friday 8th March.

The Agenda and the Minutes of the 2018 AGM will be available before the meeting.

Peter Salt
 Secretary
 secretary@maccu3a.uk

French Conversation 1
3rd Wednesday 2.00 pm
David Griffiths

Le groupe de conversation française se compose à présent de huit membres et en accueillera de nouveaux. On se réunit chaque mois chez un d'entre nous et on parle entre amis de n'importe quoi - de nos vacances, de l'art, de la nourriture, du monde en général.

Et on mange du gâteau et on boit du café et du thé. S'il vous plairait de travailler votre français dans une atmosphère détendue, téléphonez à David.

Geology
2nd Friday
Barbara Kleiser



Photos by Pam Herring

The Geology Group had a great time at the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery in January and behind the scenes we met some of their rarely exhibited treasures.

The photo shows the exceptional 3D preservation of this fish head (*Lepidotes semiserratus*). It's a wonderful specimen despite both its age (a mere 180 million years) and a past disregard for its value.

It had previously been housed at the Burton on Trent Museum, which was closed down in the 1970s, and at some stage had been rescued from being consigned to a skip!

We were made aware of the essential role places like PMAG have in safekeeping collections for future study and present enjoyment by all sections of the community, especially in this time of financial constraint on Local Authority spending.



German 2
1st & 3rd Tuesdays 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Jutta Willis

We currently have a vacancy in our friendly group. If you have some previous experience in speaking German and reading German text and would like to improve your skills, please contact me at the above number to have a trial session with us.

You will be made very welcome by all our members.

**Photography
3rd Thursday
John Howarth**



Stockport Market by John Howarth

Greetings !! from the finest Photography Group that the Macclesfield U3A has.

OK... I know we're the only Photo Group but if you wish to develop as a photographer, you won't find a better environment than this.

Last year was one of our best years. A few indoor sessions combined with lots of days out and a superb three day trip to Anglesey. Plus monthly 'Challenges' to expand our skill sets.

If you wish to see some of the photos we took then 'Click' on this link

<https://u3asites.org.ukmacclesfield/page/26739>

or copy and paste into your browser. This will take you directly to our Group Page. From there you should be able to see what we got up to in 2018.

As for 2019, simply more of the same. We had our planning meeting on 17th January so by mid February our page should be showing our 2019 Programme in detail.

If you're interested, just get in touch via the 'Click to send a message' link on our group page.

**Technology & Science
4th Tuesday 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Calvary Church, Earlsway
David Burnham**

In the autumn we covered varied topics from the geological and engineering problems associated with building HS2 over the Cheshire salt fields, super-computers and climate change mitigation by using a novel supplementary power system for shipping.

The varied programme continues in 2019. After our excursion into a new theory of gravity, in April Professor Ian Morison will provide an astronomical demonstration of how Einstein was right. We continue to try to understand the world around us in March when we look at the environment of glaciers and permafrost with Dr Richard Waller. To keep both of those environments intact, we need to reduce the net input of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and our talks in September and November are on topics that can potentially help. Nuclear fusion has had the potential to do this "in about 20 years' time" since I was a child; Paul Barron will describe the current status of research in September and in November Richard French will look at ways of using carbon dioxide to make the feedstocks that are used to make most of the things we need for modern life – from plastics to medicines to detergents.

We will also look at some the fantastic developments in the understanding of biological and biochemical systems. Dr Angela Davies will be looking at how our understanding of the human genome influences the treatment of disease (February), Professor Sheena Cruickshank will tell us about some of the guest organisms which make us who we are (June) and Dr Helen Price (May) will describe new approaches to the treatment of a parasitic disease transmitted by sandflies.

So, we have a fantastic programme for the rest of the year. I am still trying to arrange a visit in June. My attempts to get a visit to a recycling centre have so far been unsuccessful, so I may have to try in a different area.

Programme

Feb 26th Dr Angela Davies, Division of Evolution & Genomic Sciences, School of Biological Sciences, University of Manchester.
Delivering the genomic revolution in health care.

Mar 26th Dr Richard Waller, University of Keele
Glacial and permafrost environments - key elements of the global "cryosphere".

Apr 23rd Professor Ian Morison
Proving Einstein right .

May 28th Dr Helen Price, University of Keele
Leishmaniasis: new ways to tackle a neglected tropical disease.

Jun 25th Prof Sheena Cruickshank, University of Manchester
The human microbiome.

Sep 24th Paul Barron, University of Manchester
Nuclear Fusion

www.maccu3a.uk

**for the latest information,
activities and events**

Walking – Mondays

2nd & 4th Mondays

9:30 am

Dave Hudson Valerie Herbert

March 11th John Dunsford
Starts from Chelmorton. Park at roadside close to church and pub. SK 115702 at about 10.15.
8.4 miles. Moderate. Picnic lunch.

March 25th Malcolm Griffiths,
Starts at Compstall Reservoir car park, SJ 965909 at 10:15.
9miles. Moderate. Picnic Lunch.
The route will go to The Roman Lakes at Marple and Mellor Church.

April 8th Wendy Wreglesworth and Sue Pratt.
Starts from the Timbersbrook Picnic Area car park, Weathercock Lane SJ 895628 at 10.00.
Approx. 9 miles. Moderate. Picnic lunch.

April 22nd. Tom Sneddon .
Start: Chapel Street Monyash. SJ 150666 at 10.15.
9 miles, Moderate, Picnic Lunch.

May 13th Julie and John Dunsford
Starts from layby at Alsop Moor Cottages on A515, SK157564 at about 10.15.
9.7 miles. Moderate. Picnic lunch.

May 27th Bob and Yvonne
Starts from Edale car park SK124853 at approx. 10.15.
9 miles moderate/hard . Picnic lunch.
Note:The hard part is going up Lose Hill but there is a lower route which keeps the walk to a moderate.

June 24th Frank Nicholson
Starts at car park in Rowarth SK 012892 at about 10.15
10 miles moderate. Picnic lunch.

Macc U3A Christmas Party 13th December.

Allan Traves

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*The weather may have been untypically Christmassy, being warm and sunny but at least it didn't prevent a very good turnout for our annual Christmas Party at the Calvary. 83 People came along and enjoyed an excellent Buffet prepared by Andree Fry and her team, including salmon, vegetarian dishes and yes, TURKEY! A very sociable atmosphere was enhanced by Brian's Christmas Quizes and Francis Bell's tombola stall which did a brisk trade. The income, together with the prize draw proceeds, helping to fund the day .*



Photo by Allan Traves

*Our intention this year was to have a good party and break even on the day, using all the ticket money on the event. We succeeded making a miniscule loss of £9. And a bonus outcome is that we now have our own Tombola drum. If anyone wants to use it for their own events, please contact a committee member.*

*Our thanks go to all the people who put so much effort into organising the event and their reward is... to be able to have the fun of doing it all again next year.*

*Sad to say that Andree, Margaret and Audrey stand down at the end of this season and we thank them for their long service behind the scenes.*

## General Data Protection Regulations from Christine Johnston

The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) were introduced in May 2018 to protect personal data. **In order to comply with those regulations it will be necessary for all members to complete a Membership form this year. This is so that your personal details can be stored and used safely as outlined in the regulations.**

The Privacy policy can be found on the Macclesfield U3A Website [www.maccu3a.uk](http://www.maccu3a.uk)  
Membership forms will be sent out by email with the Spring Newsletter, and for those without email they will be delivered with the Spring Newsletter, forms will be available at the Members mornings.

**Please complete and sign the Membership form and return it to me with your membership payment.**

**Membership cards** will not be issued but your membership number stays the same year on year.

Membership numbers can be found on all email messages sent out from Macclesfield U3A.

For those who do not have email Group leaders will have your membership number, and it will be on your last membership card.

If members specifically request a membership card these can be issued only if a Stamped addressed envelope is sent for return of the card.

If anyone has any queries about membership or your personal details change please let me know by phone or email or letter.

Please note the email address: [membership@maccu3a.uk](mailto:membership@maccu3a.uk) or Telephone