

A Happy and Prosperous New Year to all our members

Chairman's Chatter

I would like to wish all of you a Happy New Year and hope that 2017 will be a healthy and prosperous year for us all. I hope you have all enjoyed your festive celebrations. Our Christmas U3A celebration was very successful once again. Thank you to all of those who helped in any way to make it such an enjoyable day.

The dark evenings seem endless even though the days are now getting longer. Some of you may be looking for a new challenge, especially one that allows you to further it without having to go out in the cold and brave the elements. I would like to share with you an online opportunity that has given me many hours of "entertainment". www.futurelearn.com is owned by the Open University and provides an extremely wide range of free online courses providing self-directed study, designed by both UK and international universities. I have followed a few myself and at the moment I am sharing a study with my husband. The courses have varied from nutrition; to the First World War; to cryptography! I could also see a group of like-minded members sharing a course together. I would love to think that some of you will look into this web site. It has given me many hours of interest and challenge.

Membership renewal is now due. There was a form included with the November newsletter. Many of you have already renewed, but if you have not yet done so please complete the form and either post it in the box at the meeting or send it directly to the Membership Secretary.

Our February meeting will be our AGM. Once again the meeting will start at 10.15am with general notices and the speaker. The business part of the AGM will start at 11.15am. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at that meeting.

Shirley Hammond

*** * * Membership Cards - 2017 * * ***

As from January 2017 you MUST show your Membership Card when attending the Monthly Meetings as you pay the £1.00 entrance fee

Reminder - Membership Renewal 2017

Those members who have not yet renewed may do so at the monthly meeting on 17th January or alternatively send the completed form, cheque and a stamped addressed envelope for the return of the membership card to:- Membership Secretary, 5 Highfield Road, Marple SK6 7NG

Stop Press - Third Age Matters - The National Magazine of the U3A

See information on the last page of this Newsletter

Notice of Annual General Meeting 21st February 2017 St Pauls Church Hall, Compstall

The meeting will begin at 10-15am with a speaker and the AGM Business Meeting will follow at 11-15am.

Any questions which anyone wishes to raise in 'Any Other Business' must be submitted, in writing, to the secretary at least two weeks prior to the AGM, i.e. 7th February, to allow for any necessary research for information

Agenda for AGM

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2016 AGM
3. Chairman's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Accounts
6. Election of Committee Members
7. Members Annual Subscription
8. Approval of the New Constitution
9. Any Other Business
10. Votes of Thanks
11. Formal Conclusion of the AGM

Resolution for the AGM

Following advice from the National U3A part of our constitution needs updating to keep in line with the Charity Commissions guidance "Charitable Purposes Section 3". This change is minimal and basically says exactly the same thing but in a slightly different way.

At present our object clause for Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A states:

The Objects of the U3A are:

To advance the education of the public and in particular the education of older people no longer in full time employment in Marple Bridge and Mellor and its surrounding locality.

The resolution is to change it to:

To advance education and in particular the education of people not in full time gainful employment who are in their Third Age (being the period of time after the first age of childhood dependence and the second age of full time employment and/or parental responsibility) residing in Marple Bridge and Mellor and its surrounding area.

The committee request that the membership accept this resolution as it makes no change to our objectives, but we need to do this to keep in line with the Charitable Commission.

Newsletter

Due to the rising costs of printing the Newsletter we request that members who have access to the internet and require a printed copy that they print one off themselves from the Website. Other members are requested to pick up only one printed copy at the monthly meetings.

Tony Matthews

It was with great sadness that I heard of the death of Tony Matthews. Tony and Ann became part of the heart and soul of Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A soon after joining and we also became firm friends. He will be sadly missed by a great number of people as evidenced by the attendance at his Memorial Service in Bramhall on 12th December. Both friends and family paid him much deserved and heartfelt tributes.



Tony and Ann were founder members of the East Cheshire National Trust and organised hundreds of visits to National Trust Properties and beyond. Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A benefited enormously by this expertise when they joined us and started the outings and visits to a wide variety of interesting venues. The organisation of these trips was absolutely amazing and a "recce" was always performed first which entailed Tony driving around many miles of the country. Ann and Tony were a team in life too and a wonderful example to us all.

Tony loved his garden and it was always a pleasure to behold. He was once a member of a gardening group which exhibited at The Chelsea flower Show. He gave an interesting and informative talk about his experiences at our Open Garden Group. In spite of many years spent at sea, Tony was also interested in the countryside, farming and nature. We spent many happy hours comparing notes. I was very proud to report that a family of hedgehogs had taken up residence in our garden and I fed them each evening. Tony replied that he had seen a hedgehog in his garden dragging pieces of the Sunday Times to line its nest!

Sadly, recently Tony became increasingly unwell. This did not however, dim his unfailing cheerfulness and good humour. On my last visit he insisted on serving us all with his favourite coffee although this was obviously an effort. What can I say except that I know Ann will be supported by her many friends in the Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A at this sad time.

Tony Matthews will be greatly missed by all of us.

Margaret Stevens (1st Chairman Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A)

Local Theatre Group

Here are the next plays the Local Theatre Group will go to see.

Please contact Carol Rice email i.rice@virgin.net to book in for the play by the given "book in" date. This will allow for the purchase of tickets in advance.

Ticket costs will usually be between £8-£9

The MB&M U3A Local Theatre Group will see selected plays from a wider programme of plays produced by local amateur dramatic theatres. If you would like to see another locally produced play, not on the list, then please contact Carol to see if it's possible to go to see this play?

The emphasis is on car share or taxi share or meet up point.

"Book In" by date	Date of Play	Play	Venue
3rd February	Sat Matinee 2.30pm 4 March 2017	Dick Barton, Special Agent by Phil Wilmot	Carver, Marple
3rd February	Wednesday 8 March 2017	Salt of the Earth by John Godber	Brookdale, Bramhall
3rd February	Monday 13 March 2017	The Rivals by Richard Brindsley Sheridan	Chads, Cheadle

Outings Group

Wed. 25th January Riverside Restaurant (Catering college) and Rochdale Town Hall tour - fully booked.
Jenny Summers 427 2861 for cancellations.

Wed. 22nd February - Royal Exchange tour and optional lunch - fully booked. Cancellations as above

New Outings planned as follows:

Tues. 28th March - LION SALT MUSEUM, NORTHWICH, - tour @ 11.00am (90 mins)

Salt mines in Cheshire date back over 2000 years when the Romans discovered this valuable commodity under their feet (and in their drinking water). The museum opened in June 2015 with National Lottery funding (£10 million restoration) and it beautifully preserves the history of salt making and the lives of people involved through the centuries. A museum which has won awards for excellence, we will be leaving Rosehill station at 9.15 a.m. with the usual pickups at 5 minute intervals and returning from Northwich at approx. 3.30 p.m. There is an opportunity afterwards to eat at The Salt Barge pub across the road, or light snacks in the museum café, or take a picnic and walk by the river.

Price: £19.50p.p. incl. coach, gratuities, and tailored tour of museum, coffee and biscuits on arrival (minimum number of 35 members)

First Booking: General Meeting - Tues. 17th Jan. and thereafter telephone the organiser, Jenny Summers 427 2861.



Thurs. 27th April - FOUNTAINS ABBEY AND STUDLEY ROYAL WATER GARDENS. - A VERY FULL DAY'S OUTING BUT WELL WORTH IT.

Established by Cistercian monks in C12th in the valley of river Skell the magnificent Abbey owned huge areas of land and had great wealth and power until its decimation some 300 years later under the dissolution of the monasteries (1538) under Henry VIII. In C18 the ruins were incorporated into the elegant design of the Studley Royal Water Gardens, and so it remains, one of a kind and worthy of recognition as a World Heritage Site. It is owned and managed by the National Trust (NT and Eng. Heritage members have free entry).

We leave Rose Hill at 8.15 am with a half hour coffee stop and the usual 4 pickup points Regent, Marple Bridge, Northumberland Arms and Romiley Arms bus stops returning approx. 4.30 p.m. from the Abbey to Romiley.

First Booking: Tues. 17th January and thereafter telephone the organiser J Summers (427 2861).

Price: Coach and gratuities = £15 p.p. for N.T. and Eng. Heritage members and £27p.p. non members. (based on a minimum of 35 members)



Wed. 31st May - TISSINGTON HALL TOUR and WELL DRESSINGS

This outing has been planned to coincide with the famous Tissington well dressing week and after a 90 minute guided tour around the Hall members are free to explore this delightful village.

We leave Rosehill at 9.15 am to arrive in good time for our 11.00am Hall tour.

Pickups will follow at 5 minute intervals Regent, Marple Bridge, Northumberland Arms and Romiley Arms.

First Booking: March General Meeting and thereafter ring 427 2861.

Price : £21 p.p. inc. tour of Hall, coach and gratuities. (min 35 members)



TATTON PARK MANSION - 2016

On a beautiful winter's day in November we visited Tatton Park Mansion for the tour and an excellent 3 course Christmas lunch in the Tenants Hall. It was very well received and therefore a provisional booking was agreed for Thursday 23rd November 2017 for their 12 Days of Christmas tour and lunch.

Matinee Group

Theatre Visits Planned

June 21st 2017 - to the Octagon ,Bolton 'Talking Heads' by Alan Bennett
Cost £23 including the coach.



Jean Howells & Sue Humphris

ZUMBA GOLD SESSIONS run by Stockport Leisure for our U3A.

Friday 13th January - restart 10.00-11.00am with Emma (£2p.p.)

Please Note: 11.00-12 noon Indoor Cricket activities with Mark cancelled.

Jenny Summers

Strolling Group

Our "Strolling Group" is for members who would like a gentle stroll rather than a longer walk for which we have a "Walking Group". We arrange strolls of about 2 miles followed by a cuppa. These take place on the first Tuesday mornings in the month at 10.30am.

If you would like to be put on our contact list pass your details to Geoff Fogg joanfogg@btinternet.com 0161 430 3517 or Shirley Hammond chairman@mbmu3a.org.uk

Don't forget your bus pass in case we need to ride back!

Tues February 7th 10.30am Geoff and Joan Fogg

A stroll around the Roman Lakes. Meet at the corner of Town Street across from the Norfolk Arms at 10.30am. Be aware that the road is fairly steep, but we will be taking this slowly.

Depending on the weather this could be muddy so please wear suitable footwear.

The walk will last between 1 and 1 ½ hour Afterwards, a possible cuppa and get together.

Tuesday March 7th 10.30am Maggie Preston

A stroll around Haughton Green Country Park (near Denton) Possibly meeting at 10-30 at Brabyn's Park parking area where people can car share to drive to the venue. More details later.

Tuesday April 4th 10.30am Jenny Summers Peak Forest Canal

Tuesday May 2nd 10.30am Jenny Summers Mellor Golf Club

Shirley Hammond

Walking Group

Group Organisers/Co-ordinators Sue Ward - 0161 312 162
Judith Lynch 0161 449 7507

Feb/Mar Walks

Wed 1st Feb.	Roman Bridge and Goyt Valley	4.5 miles.	Easy/Moderate .	Judy Rhodes
Tues 7th Feb.	High Lane to Lyme Park.	5.5 miles.	Easy +	Wendy Greenwood
Tues 14th Feb.	Styal.	6 miles.	Moderate.	Val and Roy Bradshaw
Wed 22nd Feb.	Todbrook Reservoir,Whaley Bridge.	4.5 miles	Easy +	Judith Lynch
Tues 28th Feb.	TBC	5/6 miles		Irene Riley
Tues 7th Mar.	Alderley Edge (NT car park) to Nether Alderley	5.5 miles.	Easy.	Sue Ward
Wed 15th Mar.	Newtown to High Lane. Bus back.	5/6 miles.	Moderate.	Sheila Stafford
Wed 22nd Mar.	Knutsford and Tatton Park.	5/6 miles.	Moderate.	John Bloor
Tues 28th Mar.	Pym Seat to Shining Tor.	6 miles.	Moderate +	Jean Mitchell

New walkers please contact Sue or Judith before attending a walk.

Crochet Group

A photograph of four talented ladies from the crocheting class showing off their banquet of crocheted necklaces.



I have organised a trip to an Alpaca farm in Mobberley in January, where we will watch a demonstration of spinning, wool dying and buy lots of Alpaca wool!

Lunch afterwards at a local restaurant.

Eunice Young

Dining Group

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Christmas meal at the Joshua Bradley a very good evening enjoyed by everybody I spoke to.



Forthcoming Events

Thursday 19th January Platform One in Romiley -7-30pm
A Three course meal plus coffee or tea for £15
Bookings will be taken at the January meeting

Tuesday 28th February Reflections Restaurant at Ashton Catering Collage - 7pm
A Three course meal plus coffee or tea for £14
Bookings will be taken in January and February

Tuesday 14th March All Things Nice Marple - 7-30pm
Three course Greek & Turkish meal with tea or coffee for £22
Bookings will be taken in February

A £5 deposit to secure your reservation for all Dining experiences will be required at the time of booking; this is non-refundable.

Pat Walker

French Group

We are a friendly group who meet at the Windsor Castle on the second and fourth Thursday in the month from 9.30am until 11.00am. It is not a taught French class. We enjoy looking at articles from French newspapers, magazines and books. We share stories, quizzes, discussions, factual information, legal documents and much more, all in French.

To join in you will need to be able to speak a little French. Most of us have O level French or similar from many years ago. It's surprising how quickly it all start to come back!

Anyone interested in joining us please contact me, Shirley Hammond, by e mail.

chairman@mbmu3a.org.uk

Reading Group 3

We have 2 vacancies in Reading Group 3.

We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 10 am in different group members' homes. Not everybody is able to host a meeting and that is not a problem, those that want to and can host do, those that can't, don't.

We have a friendly, informal discussion about the book we have read and often our discussions include a range of related issues.

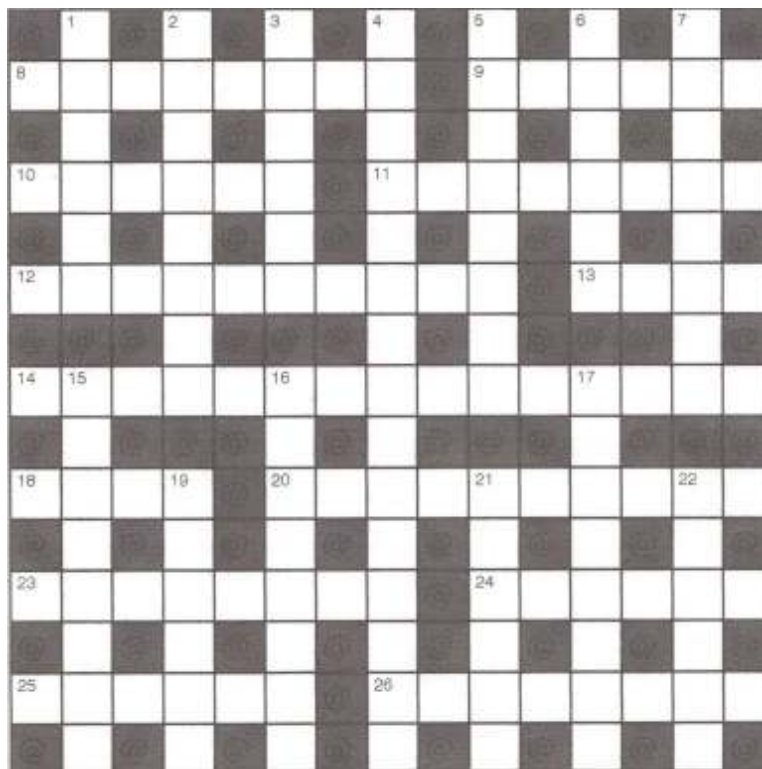
Elaine Owen

Crossword Compiled by Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A Crossword Group

Geoff Heath

Clues across

- 8 Set off for an assignation around prestigious school (8)
 9 Leaving former lover who took overdose in front of you and me (6)
 10 Who can't adjust if it's exploded after November 5th? (6)
 11 Extend the glen north haphazardly (8)
 12 Alter fleeces for blossom (10)
 13 Story-teller returns. By this means? (4)
 14 Cunning bear led dull bore with shotgun (6-9)
 18 Rupert is hiding in the wardrobe area (4)
 20 Behind factory, emu flutters round tumbledown inn, revealing a coming golden age (10)
 23 Gannets, for example, as brides? Wild! (8)
 24 Copper with most unruly habit (6)
 25 Gently rub rower setting pace (6)
 26 Unequivocal impact he made (8)



Clues down

- 1 Umpire accepting fib got comfort (6)
 2 Sport needs cudgel; wood or iron for example (4,4)
 3 That untidy queen could be mad as one (6)
 4 Firmly grounded and we'll bless the aid at sea (4-11)
 5 Sounds like rain, darling Rudolf (8)
 6 At the start of June a water mammal can produce a note-book (6)

Clues down (cont)

- 7 Strangely, I dye lute for festive season (8)
 15 Come! Let Terry conceal eggy dish (8)
 16 Melt away before clairvoyant returns from the woods (3,5)
 17 Ref's helper also repairs cables (8)
 19 Crib bonnet; that's where to find narrow fabric (8)
 21 Get away as Southern peace is breaking down (6)
 22 United, highest first class returning to perfect place (6)

Meetings - FUTURE SPEAKERS

17th January	Christine Belton	"Have you had the Doctor?"
21 February	Brian Hallworth	George Formby 'Still Leaning on a Lamp Post'
21 March	Roy Frost	"The History of Market Street and Piccadilly in Manchester."

Unless otherwise notified, the ordinary monthly meetings are held in St Paul's Church Hall, Compstall on the third Tuesday of each month at 9-30am (for coffee and socializing). To enable members to use the bus service, the business of the meeting will start at 10-15 and will finish at 11.45 am approx.

- * *When attending a meeting please have your Membership Card and the entrance fee ready (preferably as a £1 coin)*
- * *You must show your membership card at all U3A events, including groups.*
- * *Please do not park near the War Memorial, use the Etherow Country Car Park*
- * *Please remember to bring and buy books and C.D's at the monthly meetings.*

CONTACTS

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The Old Municipal Buildings

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020 8466 6139

Announcements

It is with great regret that we record the deaths of two of our members, Tony Matthews and Audrey Bowker.

We send our sincere condolences to Ann Matthews and the family and the family of Audrey Bowker.

Newsletter

If you would like to see the Newsletter early go to our Website, www.mbmu3a.org.uk and click on the relevant Newsletter heading.

You can also view past Newsletters on the website

Crossword Solution

Across 8 Detonate; 9 Exodus; 10 Misty; 11 Lengthen;
12 Effloresce; 13 Rail; 14 Double-barrelled; 18 Bear;
20 Millennium; 23 Seabirds; 24 Custom; 25 Stroke;
26 Emphatic;
Down: 1 Relief; 2 Golf club; 3 Hatter; 4 Well-established;
5 Reindeer; 6 Jotter; 7 Yuletide; 15 Omelette;
16 Elm trees; 17 Linesman; 19 Ribbon; 21 Escape;
22 Utopia.

This Newsletter appears bi-monthly. The next edition will be published March 2017

Please send items for publication by email

to Malcolm Moss

Email: newslettereditor@mbmu3a.org.uk

Any stories, articles or photographs of interest to members are welcomed.

You can read all issues of the newsletter on our website www.mbmu3a.org.uk

All contributions for the next edition of the Newsletter should be received no later than Friday 3rd March 2017

Subscribe to the National U3A Magazine "Third Age Matters"

The national U3A magazine, "Third Age Matters" is only available by taking out a personal subscription to receive the magazine by direct mail to your home address.

The subscription must be renewed each year so if you signed up last year, you will need to renew your subscription for 2017\18

To subscribe to the national U3A magazine, please complete the form below and send it, along with a cheque for £2.35, made out to Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A.

Send your cheque & form to: MB&M U3A, Membership Secretary, 5 Highfield Rd, Marple, SK6



Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A

2017\18 Subscription Form for the National Magazine "Third Age Matters"

I would like to receive the Third Age Matters magazine for 2017\18.

Title (Mr/Mrs, etc)Name:

Address:

.....POST CODE.....

Telephone No.....

I enclose payment of £2.35 (preferably cheque, made out to Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A).

This will cover all issues published in February, April, June, September and November 2017

Send your cheque & form to the Membership Secretary, 5 Highfield Road, Marple, SK6 7NG.

If you should change your address, you must notify the Membership Secretary otherwise the magazine will continue to be sent to your old address.

Signed:..... Date: