

## Chairman's Chatter

I got a shock the other day when going into a local supermarket to be faced with a countdown to Christmas. It seems to come round so quickly. We only just seem to have got over summer and here it comes; messages and Christmas gifts in the shops, advertisements on the television, Christmas pantomimes starting soon. It makes me so happy to be able to wish you all a very merry Christmas. Come and join us to start your celebrations.

Don't forget that the December meeting this year is the 2nd Tuesday in the month, December 12th. This year's entertainment will be by some children from our area and we are sure you will really enjoy it. There will also be various quizzes and, of course, potato pie and fruit pavlova. Entry will be by ticket only and they will be available at the November meeting, price £7.00. This is always an enjoyable social Christmas celebration. I look forward to seeing you there.

Our Coffee Morning in October was very successful. Thank you to all those who helped; especially to the group leaders/convenors who came. It was lovely to see people chatting and finding out more about what we have available. This was an opportunity for everyone to find out more about the wide variety of groups we run or simply to come and enjoy a drink and a chat. We are holding one biannually so watch out for the next date in April 2018.

The AGM will take place at the February meeting. We are looking for a new committee member. Please, please think about whether you can come and join us. We do struggle to get volunteers. It is not an onerous task and can be very enjoyable. Speak to any committee member for more information about this role. We are also looking for someone to shadow our treasurer, Mike Paxton, for this next year with the view to taking over as treasurer in 2019. Mike is always available at General Meetings and would be available to talk with anyone who would be interested in this role. He can also be contacted on [treasurer@mbmu3a.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@mbmu3a.org.uk)

As this is the last newsletter of 2017 I would like to wish all of you a healthy enjoyable 2018.

*Shirley Hammond*

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## CHRISTMAS LUNCH



Meat & Potato Pie & Desert ( with vegetarian option)

at St Paul's Church Hall

on Tuesday 12th December 2017

Raffle - Entertainment

Admission £7.00 Entry by Ticket only (Bought in advance)

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## Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A - Renewal of Membership 2018

The membership renewal form is attached to this Newsletter. It would be very much appreciated if you could renew your membership NOW and avoid the Christmas rush,

We are asking all members to pay by cheque (see the renewal form for details of arrangements) and we would welcome your co-operation. If you have any problems with this please contact Malcolm Moss Assistant Membership Secretary.

Please note we only post out the Newsletter to members if they attach 6 stamped addressed envelopes, sized 230mm x 160mm (A5 size)

## Progress Update - Implementation of the Beacon membership system



We told you some months ago, that Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A would be implementing a computerised membership system called the Beacon System which is supported by the National U3A office.

We went "live" with Beacon in July 2017. During the past few months, our System Administrator, Carol Rice, has been busy testing out Beacon and getting to know what it can do and how it will help the Committee with administration tasks.

The Committee, and especially those who will have permission to use the system, are very aware of the Data Protection Act and what must be done to maintain the safety of your personal information. We do not use or keep any financial information whatsoever. We will only be using Beacon to keep names and addresses, telephone number and email addresses. Please be reassured that your details will be kept confidential, not shared with any third parties, and only used within Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A for membership details and group activities such as outings and dining group.

Carol Rice has begun training other Committee Members in how to use Beacon and the first one now fully trained is Malcolm Moss.

Although we have only been using Beacon for a short time, it is clear that it will help us when communicating directly with our members. Those of you who have an email address will already have received a couple of emails via Beacon and it was particularly useful when sending an email to remind members about the recent coffee morning. Next year, the Committee will look at using Beacon for groups. Group Leaders will have the opportunity to use Beacon to help them communicate more easily with Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A members who participate in their group activities.

Don't miss out hearing from us ..... if you don't have an email address, you might want to consider getting one to help you stay in touch! Your local library may be able to help you set one up? If you do have an email address, then please tell us if you should change your email address.

### Your 2018 membership is due for renewal on 1st January 2018.

Malcolm Moss has taken over as Assistant Membership Secretary to Carol Rice. This will leave Carol free to implement Beacon and to undertake training of the committee members in how to use the system.

**Malcolm Moss's name and address, which is on the 2018 renewal form, should now be used for all membership renewals and enquiries**

Carol's role will now be to manage Beacon for the Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A Committee.

If you would like more information on the U3A Beacon System, please contact



Carol Rice on [i.rice@virgin.net](mailto:i.rice@virgin.net)

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### Dining Group

Thank you to everybody who has joined us for our recent meal experiences New Mills Golf Club (Evening Meal) and Wyevale Garden Centre (Afternoon Tea)

### Forthcoming Events

**Christmas Evening Meal £22 on 6th December at The Midway Stockport**

(We have booked the private function room overlooking the river Goyt)  
7.00 For 7.30 £22. Bookings will be taken at the November Meeting.



**Three Course Evening Meal £18 on 10th January 2018 at The Crown Hawk Green**

7.00 for 7.30. Bookings will be taken at the November Meeting.

**A Six Course Evening Meal £15 at Reflections Catering College on 8th February**

7.00 for 7.30 Bookings will be taken in November.

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

## Outings Group

### Future Outings for 2018

Thanks to those who came to our short planning meeting last month. We have an interesting range of outings proposed for the year.

**Friday, 19th January - MANCHESTER ART GALLERY - Richard's 'piece of string'**  
Richard McLean, a MB&MU3A member and an experienced guide at the Gallery, has kindly offered this walk-and-talk session followed by an optional lunch. Fully booked with a reserve list.

Organiser: J Summers

### Monday 26th February      **BAKEWELL MARKET DAY AND SNOWDROP WALK AT HOPTON HALL, Derbyshire**

£18 includes coach, driver's gratuity and entry to Hall Gardens and Snowdrop Walk

A visit to busy interesting Bakewell town on Monday market day offers 160 stalls over two sites, Granby Road and Market Street, plus the opportunity to view the livestock sales from the viewing gallery of the cattle auction house right by the coach parking area and a short walk to the town centre. After lunch we travel the short distance to Hopton Hall for a grand display of snowdrops in the grounds. There is an excellent café for an afternoon tea break.

Booking: November General meeting and there after contact

Organiser: J. Summers (427 2861)

### Wednesday, 28th March      **LUNCH AT THE RIVERSIDE RESTAURANT and visit to the CO-OP PIONEERS MUSEUM, ROCHDALE.**

£28 includes coach, driver's gratuity, 3 course lunch (tea or coffee extra), small gratuity to students and guided tour of Pioneer Museum.

Another visit was requested to 2017 award winning catering college, Riverside Restaurant, and on this occasion we also have a short guided tour of the original Co-Op museum on Toad Lane. This has been extensively restored to preserve the original 'store' opened in 1844, selling the four key items of butter, sugar, flour and oatmeal to its members, and to highlight the Pioneers' Principles and their impact on the growth of the mighty Co-Op movement.

This outing is suitable people with mobility issues. Tea/coffee is included before we travel home.

Booking: January General meeting and thereafter contact

Organiser: J. Summers (427 2861).

### Thursday, 26th April -      **TERRACOTTA WARRIORS EXHIBITION World Museum, LIVERPOOL**

Booking forms for the exhibition will be available first at the November General Meeting. All members on the provisional list are assured of a place and if you are unable to attend the meeting please contact the organiser: J. Summers (427 2861) thereafter.

You will be asked to send a cheque payable to MB&MU3A Outings for £23 p.p. with a stamped addressed envelope for details and receipt. January General meeting, Outings desk.

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## Walking Group

Group Organisers/Co-ordinators

Sue Ward - 0161 312 162

Judith Lynch 0161 449 7507

### Dec/Jan Walks

Wed 6th Dec.	Dunham Massey and Bridgewater Canal.	3 ¾ miles.	Easy.	Sue Ward
	<b>+ Christmas Lunch at the Swan with 2 Necks</b>			
	Please let Judith Lynch know if you plan to attend the walk and/or lunch. Phone 449 7507 or email <a href="mailto:judith149@sky.com">judith149@sky.com</a> Food can be chosen and ordered at the pub before we walk.			
Week beginning 11th Dec.	Please note no walk due to lunch at St Paul's and Gardening Club			
Tues 19th Dec.	Hayfield	4/5 miles	Moderate	Sheila Stafford
<b>Christmas and New Year Break</b>				
Tues 9th Jan.	Moorside around Furness Vale	5/6 miles	Moderate	Irene Riley
Wed 17th Jan.	Fernilee to Coombs	6 miles	Moderate	Jean Mitchell
Tues 23rd Jan.	To the Roman Lakes	5/6 miles	Moderate	Val & Roy Bradshaw
Wed 31st Jan.	Lyme Park sights	4 miles	Moderate NT cards for parking	Judith Lynch

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

## 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 or 0161 366 8223

Don't forget your bus pass in case we need to ride back! Bring a drink over the summer months!

Tuesday December 5th Geoff Fogg 0161 430 3517

Meet in the car park at Etherow Lake at 10.30am.

A walk around and about the lake. As yet, we have no specific plan.

Afterwards join us for coffee etc. in the café at the lake.

*There will not be a walk in January*

We need some of you to arrange strolls from February onwards. Please speak to Geoff Fogg. If you have a basic idea he will give you assistance to plan a stroll. Remember we only stroll 2-3 kilometers.

Shirley Hammond

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## Local Theatre Group

The next plays the Local Theatre Group will be going to see are in spring 2018.

*See the January newsletter for booking details.*

The plays will be:-

Carver Theatre      Saturday 3rd March 2018    Matinee 2.30pm  
Enlightenment by Shelagh Stephenson  
A thriller based on a missing son when overseas.  
A stranger appears, uncannily like their son.

Chads Theatre      Tuesday 6th March 2018    7.45pm  
Handbagged by Moira Buffini  
A comedy based on the meetings between the Queen & Mrs Thatcher in the 1980's. Two icons, one destined to rule and the other elected to lead.

Poynton Players      Monday 19th March 2018    7.45pm  
Bouncers by John Godber  
A comedy, set in a night club with four actors playing several roles of lads and lasses out on the town.

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## Reading Group 3

We currently have 2 vacancies in our reading group.

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.

If you would like to join us please contact me.

Elaine Owen , 01614273844

mob. 07801490818

email. elaine.owen93@ntlworld.com

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## Life Changes !!!

Changes have come into my life since I spoke to you last and I thought I should let you know about them. You know I am quite a frivolous old girl and I am now seeing five gentlemen each day.

As I wake WILL POWER helps me out of bed and then I go to visit LOU. Next, it's time for MR QUAKER to give me my oats.

After they leave, ARTHUR ITIS shows up for the rest of the day. He doesn't stay in one place for long but goes around with me from joint to joint. Finally, after such a busy day I am always ready for bed with JOHNNY WALKER. What a life and, yes, I am flirting with AL ZHEIMERS too,

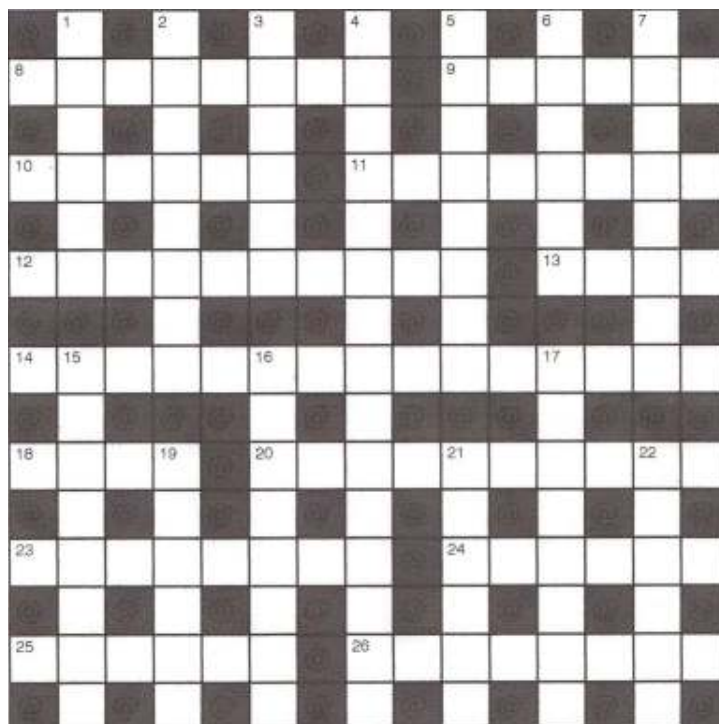
A member of our U3A

# Crossword Compiled by Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A Crossword Group

Sheila Stafford

## Clues across

8. Local manager's promising start with a club in turmoil. (8)
9. This plant will quietly enthrall. (6)
10. Duck range, stupid ass! (6)
11. The French, covered against accident if not new, are taking it easy. (8)
12. Heroes lend out leather trousers. (10)
13. We're running around to find a jug. (4)
14. Mismanaged part-time local with little ice in hot humid conditions. (8,7)
18. A type of vegetarian food not entirely to fuss about. (4)
20. Monk in song about abstinence from tobacco. (3,7)
23. Swishing sound when four by four goes out of control. (4,4)
24. Drunkard turns back on drink at the spin of a coin. (4,2)
25. Even Hancock goes before Tess taking time off to gain entrance (6)
26. Leader chosen from going over normal applicants. (8)



## Clues down

1. Question cooking of nice fruit. (6)
2. Dump a good man surrounded by friends on the up. (4,4)
3. Criticise church after composition wasn't finished. (6)
4. Single problem, hard tongue for foreigners to learn. (7,8)
5. Adoption always provides a choice. (8)
6. Employ wrongly and miss European Union, maybe. (6)
7. Belief about fellows in apartment house. (8)

## Clues down (cont)

15. Sports car OK for extra storage. (4-4)
16. Trick King George first entering Secret Service meeting. (8)
17. Be determined to reach land by the sound of it. (4,4)
19. Not accustomed to revealing us nude. (6)
21. Reason why engineers move it. (6)
22. Euro in centre of banner found in cell. (6)

## FUTURE SPEAKERS

- 21 Nov Simon Webb "Why we still need orchestras in a rapidly changing world"  
12 Dec Christmas Meal (Admission by ticket only - bought in Advance)

## MARPLE BRIDGE & MELLOR U3A - SPEAKERS for 2018

- |  |                              |   |
|--|------------------------------|---|
| 15 January   | Michael Leach                | "It's a Funny Way to make a Living"<br>(Wild life Photographer) |
| 20 February  | Ted Doan                     | "The Plaza"   |
| 20 March   | Eric Newton                  | "Life and times of a Busker"                                    |
| 17 April   | Peter Ashburner              | "Flog it"   |
| 15 May   | Veronica Bird                | "From Prison to Palace"   |
| 19 June  | Charlotte Newson             | "An Artist's Journey"   |
| 17 July  | Geoff Scargill               | "Miracle in Manchester"   |
| (John Barbirolli and the Manchester Halle Orchestra) |                              |   |
| 21 August  | Charity Event                |   |
| 18 September   | Annette and John Christopher | "A Talk with a difference - Fun with clay"                      |
| 16 October   | Sheila Dale                  | "The Eddie Stobart story"                                       |
| 20 November  | Christine Robinson           | "Chatsworth: The Housekeeper's Tale"                            |
| 11 December  | Christmas Meal               |   |

Please note this is on the 2nd Tuesday (not 3rd)

## Remembrance Sunday



I felt very honoured to lay the wreath on your behalf at the cenotaph at St Paul's Church on Remembrance Sunday.

*Shirley Hammond*



## Coffee Morning

What a successful and enjoyable morning. The weather was awful and I felt sure no one would leave their warm dry homes to come to a coffee morning, but so many of you proved me wrong. There was a good selection of groups represented giving information about the wide variety of activities we have on offer.

I spoke with new members and visitors as well as many regular members. Lots of you were expressing interest in trying a new group and extending their knowledge.

Thanks to all contributors and visitors who made this such a valuable and interesting social event. We look forward to the next one around about April.

*Shirley Hammond*

## Presentation of Cheque to Mercy Ships

Following a successful year of fund raising for the charity "Mercy Ships" I had great pleasure in presenting a cheque for £1140 to their representative Frances King.

We are continuing to raise funds for them and I will be able to let you know the total we have raised at the AGM.

*Shirley Hammond*



## Romiley U3A Computer Group

The new group will run from Monday 8th of January to Monday 19th March inclusive with one week half term holiday on Monday 19th February.

The group will be held in the IT Department of Romiley Primary School, Sandy Lane, Romiley 4pm to 6pm. £10 for the course. The course caters for absolute beginners to improvers.

Contact Kath Bradley on 0161 430 4259 if you are interested in joining the course

## CONTACTS

**Chairman:** Shirley Hammond  
chairman@mbmu3a.org.uk  
**Vice Chairman:** Clare Gwilym  
vicechairman@mbmu3a.org.uk  
**Secretary:** Malcolm Moss  
secretary@mbmu3a.org.uk  
**Minute Secretary:** Joan Fogg  
minutesecretary@mbmu3a.org.uk  
**Treasurer:** Michael Paxton  
treasurer@mbmu3a.org.uk  
**Group Co-ordinator:** Hazel Bhatt  
GroupCoordinator@mbmu3a.org.uk  
**Assist. Mem. Secretary:** Malcolm Moss  
membershipsecretary@mbmu3a.org.uk  
**Speaker Organiser:** Ulla Mehta  
speakersecretary@mbmu3a.org.uk  
**Almoner:** Pat Walker  
almoner@mbmu3a.org.uk  
**Newsletter Editor:** Malcolm Moss  
newslettereditor@mbmu3a.org.uk  
**Outings:** Jenny Summers  
Wendy Atkinson  
Outings@mbmu3a.org.uk  
**Other Committee Members**  
Hazel Bhatt, Geoff Fogg, Derek Hesketh,  
& Olwyn Wych  
**Webmaster:**  
Tony Wolfendale  
**e.mail:** webmaster@mbmu3a.org.uk  
**Website:** www.mbmu3a.org.uk  
**National Website:** www.u3a.org.uk  
**National Office:** The Third Age Trust  
52 Lant Street, London, SE1 1RB  
020 8466 6139

## Important Notice

The Christmas Lunch Meeting will be held on the **second Tuesday of the month, not the third.**  
This year it will be on 12th Dec



**BY YOUR LOCAL  
ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE**

TO HELP COOK AND SERVE A TWO  
COURSE LUNCH TO SENIOR CITIZENS  
AT MARPLE SENIOR CITIZENS HALL  
ON TUESDAY OR THURSDAY

Male and Female Volunteers Welcome

**NO SPECIALSKILLS NEEDED  
JUST WILLINGNESS AND A SMILE**

Contact JACQUI AIREY on  
0161 427 5078

Crossword Solution  
Across 8 publican 9 privet 10 onager 11 leisured  
12 lederhosen 14 tropical climate 18 tofu  
20 non-smoking 23 fron-trou 24:ross up 25. ccess  
26. governor  
Down 1 quince 2 slag-heap 3 scorch 4 English language  
5. optional 6. misuse 7. tenement 15. roof-track  
16 congress 17 make sure 19 unused 21 motive  
22 neuron

This Newsletter appears bi-monthly. The next edition will be published January 2018

Please send items for publication by email

to Malcolm Moss

**Email: [newslettereditor@mbmu3a.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.mbmu3a.org.uk)

**All contributions for the next edition of the Newsletter  
should be received no later than Friday 5th January 2018**

# Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A - Membership Application \ Renewal 2018

Membership renewal is **due on 1st of January each year.** The fee is **£9.00 per person.**  
**If you apply for membership in October, your membership will include the following year.**

You can apply or renew your membership in one of two ways:

(1) By post. Send your form, cheque and small SAE (for the return of your card) to  
Malcolm Moss, Assistant Membership Secretary

OR:

(2) Leave your form & cheque in the "post box" on the Membership Desk at December/January meeting.

**If you do not attend the monthly meetings, please enclose an SAE with your form or ask a friend to collect your membership card.**

*Note: You will be notified by email when the newsletter is on the website. If you wish to receive the newsletter by post, please enclose 6 stamped addressed envelopes, sized 230mm x 160mm (size A5).*

## Subscribe to the National U3A Magazine "Third Age Matters"

The magazine is published 5 times a year & costs £2.50 for the whole year. It is sent direct to your home. The renewal time for the magazine is February. **Please send a separate cheque,** payable to MB&M U3A. The subscription must be renewed each year if you want to continue receiving the magazine.

If you require any further information, please contact Malcolm Moss

Send your form & **cheque made payable to Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A** to:  
Malcolm Moss, U3A Assistant Membership Secretary,

**Please tick ONE box:    Renewal of Membership        or    New Member Application**

**PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR DETAILS IN CAPITAL LETTERS (except email address)**

1. TITLE.....SURNAME ..... FORENAME .....  
(Mr/Mrs, etc)

2. TITLE..... SURNAME ..... FORENAME .....  
(Mr/Mrs, etc)

ADDRESS .....

POST CODE..... TEL: .....

EMAIL ADDRESS: .....  
(the main email for both members in the same household)

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER/S (in case of any accident) .....

In which *Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A groups* do you belong or wish to participate in?

Are you willing to host an interest group? If so, in what subject?

Please note, your details will be kept on a computerised database and will not be shared with third parties.

**Signed:**

**Date:**