

Wishing you all a Happy & Prosperous New Year *Chairman's Chatter*

My period as chairman is coming to an end at the AGM in February and this will be my last Chairman's Chatter. It will also be the last time I can formally wish our members 'all the best for 2018' and hope that it will be a healthy and prosperous year for us all. I am writing this a couple of days before Christmas Day, but by the time you read it your festive celebrations will be over. The U3A Christmas celebration was very successful once again. The children were a real pleasure to listen to and watch. I have passed all your compliments on to Ludworth Primary School. Thank you to all of you who helped in any way to make it such an enjoyable day.

At the beginning of last year I mentioned Future Learn, an online learning programme. They provide a variety of courses on an incredibly wide range of subjects for one to follow privately or with friends, at your own pace and is free of charge. This could provide you with a new challenge, one that allows you to extend your knowledge without having to go out in the cold and brave the elements. It has given me many hours of "entertainment" from Health and Wellbeing to Mathematical Cyphers! www.futurelearn.com is owned by the Open University, and provides self-directed study designed by both UK and international universities. 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. Possibly some members could work together on one of the courses.

Membership renewal is now due. There was a form included with the November newsletter and some of you have already renewed. If you've not yet done so please complete the form and either post it in the box at the meeting or this year send it directly to Malcolm Moss.

Our February meeting will be our AGM. Once again the meeting will start at 10.15am with general notices and a 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.

Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A do not endorse any holiday company but we would like to bring the following information to your attention. If at the time of making a booking for a holiday with the Riviera Travel Company you mention that you are a member of the U3A they will make a donation of 10% of the cost to our U3A after you have completed your holiday. You must make a request for this donation at the time of booking. They will not do it retrospectively. Further information is available from the treasurer or any member of the committee.

Shirley Hammond

Reminder - Membership Renewals 2018

Those members who have not yet renewed may do so at the monthly meeting on 16th January or alternately send the completed form cheque and a stamped addressed envelope for the return of the new card to:- Membership Secretary, 24 Beechwood Drive, Marple SK6 7DG

Third Age Matters - The National Magazine of the U3A

See information on the last page of this Newsletter

Stop Press

Would all Newsletter contributors please note that the last day for entries for the next Newsletter is WEDNESDAY 7th March.

Outings Group

Friday 19th JANUARY, Manchester Art Gallery, (there are no places left)

We meet in the Gallery café for coffee and the tour will commence at 11.45 am.

We make our own travel arrangements into Manchester as already agreed.

Monday, 26th February Bakewell Market Day followed by Snowdrop walk at Hopton Hall, Derbyshire. Fully booked and with a waiting list. Leaving Rose Hill at 9.15 am with the usual 5 minute interval pickups.

Future Outings

Wed.28th March Lunch at Riverside Restaurant followed by guided tour of the Co-Op Pioneers Museum Rochdale.

Repeat visit to this popular Restaurant for 3 course (tea/coffee extra) lunch followed by a guided tour of the refurbished museum dedicated to the Co-op movement. Suitable for members with mobility issues.

Price: £28 p.p. includes coach, driver's gratuity, lunch, small donation to students, guided tour of museum and tea/coffee refreshment after.

Leaving at 10-15am from Rosehill with the usual pickups

First Booking ; Tuesday January 16th General meeting and thereafter contact the organiser, J Summers (427 2861) for any remaining places.

Thursday, 26th April TERRACOTTA WARRIOR EXHIBITION, World Museum, Liverpool.

There are now 4 places on this outing and booking forms will be available at the Outings desk.

If you are interested but cannot attend the January meeting, please ring the organiser, J Summers (427 2861).

Price: £23 p.p. Two coaches will pick up as follows:-

Coach A - Rosehill (9.15 am), Regent (9.20 am) and Marple Br. (9.25 a.m.).

Coach B -. Northumberland Arms (9.30am) and Romiley Arms. (9.35 am)

As usual we ask you to be in good time at your pickup point.

A trip to BODNANT GARDENS AND LLANDUDNO

is planned for May. Details in the March newsletter. Booking March 20th General meeting

Walking Group

Group Organisers/Co-ordinators

Jean Mitchell 0161 221 2304

Judith Lynch 0161 449 7507

Feb/Mar Walks

Wed Feb 7th	Hadfield	4m	Easy	Sue Ward
Tue Feb 13th	TBA	5-6m	Moderate	Irene Riley
Wed Feb 21st	Mellor	4m	Moderate	Judith Lynch
Tue Feb 27th	Styal Woods	5m	Easy+	Val and Roy Bradshaw
Wed Mar 7th	Nether Alderley	5m	Moderate	Sheila Stafford
Tue Mar 13th	Bollington	5m	Moderate	Jean Mitchell
Wed Mar 21st	Longdendale	6m	Easy	John Bloor
Tue Mar 27th	Buxworth/Eccles Pike	4m	Moderate	Judy Rhodes

New walkers please contact Jean 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!

Throughout 2017 quite a large group of members joined us for a variety of walks exploring different areas around and about Marple Bridge, Mellor and some of the surrounding countryside. We benefitted from outside exercise as well as joining in enjoyable social occasions. We do need some of you to help to plan strolls for 2018.

Tuesday February 6th 10.30am Roman Lakes, Marple Bridge. Geoff Fogg 0161 430 3517

Meet outside the Midland Public House at 10.30am.

We will stroll through Marple Bridge to the Roman Lakes. Hopefully the café will be open for anyone who wants refreshments. There are 2 slight inclines.

The pathways should be reasonable, but be aware of the time of year and wear appropriate footwear and clothing to suit the weather. The stroll should take approximately 1½ hours

Afterwards we will find somewhere for a cuppa and a chat.

We need some of you to arrange strolls from March 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.

Zumba classes for 2018

The Friday morning classes will resume on 12th January 2018 at 10.00 a.m. in the Church Hall, Compstall. New members are always welcome.

Price: £2.50 per session.

Contact : J. Summers (427 2861)

Local Theatre Group

Here are the plays for spring 2018 which the local theatre group will go to see.

If you want to see any of the plays, please book a seat with Carol Rice, by 3rd February at the latest, either on 0161 449 9058 or email i.rice@virgin.net. This will allow for the purchase of tickets in advance.

The emphasis is on car share. We tend to meet in the foyer about 15 minutes before curtain up. Most tickets (concession rate) are between £8 - £9.50

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.

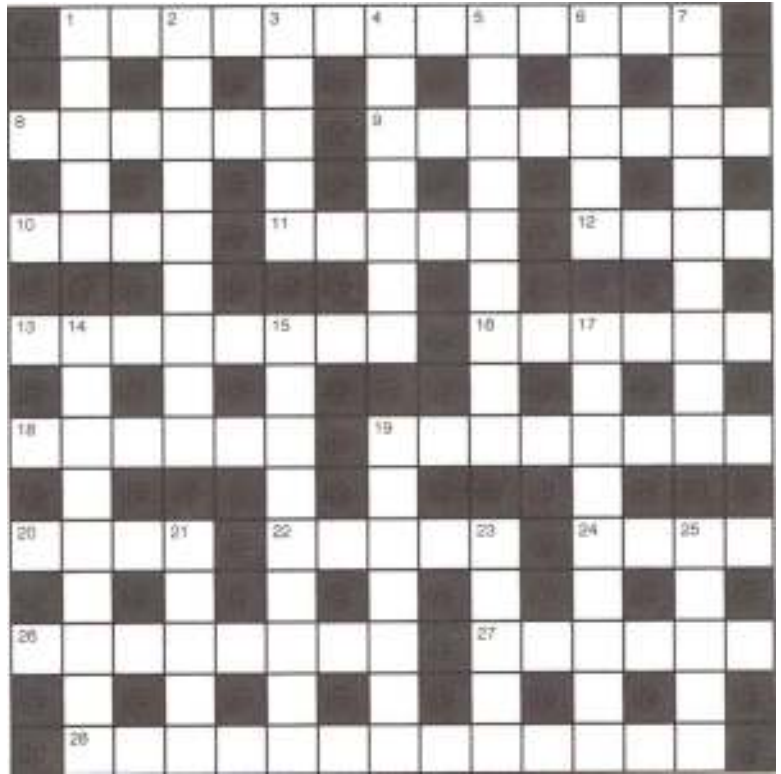
Poynton Players Monday 19th March 2018 7.45pm
Bouncers by John Godber
A comedy, set in a night club with four actors playing several roles of lads and lasses out on the town.

Crossword Compiled by Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A Crossword Group

Sheila Stafford

Clues across

1. Tried idealism for a change under civil control. (13)
8. Against some rhesus reverend in reverse. (6)
9. Prisoner with awful fat behind needs means of rescue. (8)
10. May in confusion with leading Liberal finding popper (drug). (4)
11. Trees fall over in drive. (5)
12. Lived in microbe environment. (4)
13. That rig I built is impenetrable. (8)
16. Aristocrats act like toffs around the French. (6)
18. Shoot off one's mouth about stares. (6)
19. Trim (had a meal after I came back). (8)
20. Sung arrangement in pub's back room. (4)
22. Provide food and drink in plastic crate. (5)
24. Skilful sailor joined the French. (4)
26. Sugar shakes up a dreamer. (8)
27. Nailer works in non-circular direction. (6)



Clues down

1. Red Rum has morning and night vision. (5)
2. It goes to one's head every Christmas and prompts kissing. (9)
3. Stays fresh with fermented salts. (5)
4. Highest building let last. (7)
5. Voting systems earned ref a new contract. (9)
6. Brush out, or could be broom. (5)
7. Not the same if fed badly and torn asunder. (9)

Clues down (cont)

14. Not genuine sin...nicer somehow...and last chance. (9)
15. Smash opening before going to party uninvited. (9)
17. Female warrior ain't in bra at sea. (9)
19. Take public transport to hospital department ahead of bad weather. (7)
21. Gulp first beer brewed for diver. (5)
23. Some spinning wool seen retrospectively in Whiskey Galore. (5)
25. Sloan ranger has money borrowed. (5)

Meetings -FUTURE SPEAKERS

16 January	Mr Watson	"Short Films"
20 February	Ted Doan	"The Plaza"
20 March	Eric Newton	"Life and times of a Busker"

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 show your Membership Card and have 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.*

Dining Group



Thank you to everybody who has joined us for our recent meal experiences

The Christmas meal at The Midway Stockport. The staff were very inviting and helpful. With our own private function room and bar, plus the food was excellent.

Forthcoming Events

A Six Course Evening Meal £15 at Reflections Catering College Ashton.

Thursday 8th February 7.00 for 7.30 (Sorry but this is now fully booked).

A Three course Lunch is planned at The Sportsman, Strines Rd Marple

Thursday 22nd March Bookings will be taken at the January Meeting.

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.

Pat Walker

Matinee Group



As some theatres have not yet arranged their programmes for 2018 we are not able to announce in the Newsletter any future visits after the ballet in March, but please come to the Matinee desk in January as we may have some visits arranged for you by then.

Sue and I wish all our matinee friends a very happy New Year and hope to see you on our visits in the coming year.

Jean Howells

Notice of Annual General Meeting 20th February 2018 St. Paul's Church Hall, Compstall

The meeting will begin with a speaker at 10-15am 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 by 6th February, to allow for any necessary research for information

Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2017 AGM
3. Chairmen's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Accounts
6. Election of New Chairman
7. Election of New Secretary
8. Election of New Committee Members
9. Members Annual Subscription 2019
10. Any Other Business
11. Votes of Thanks
12. Formal Conclusion of the AGM

CONTACTS

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Barbara Scholes & Olwyn Wych

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National Website: www.u3a.org.uk
National Office: The Third Age Trust
52 Lant Street, London, SE1 1RB
020 8466 6139

For your attention

The paper £10 note featuring Charles Darwin will soon become extinct. The last day to use them is March 1st 2018. Most businesses are not accepting them already. After that date the old notes will no longer be legal tender and you should be using the new polymer ones.

Some banks may accept/exchange the old ones but they do not have to; your alternative is to fill in a form and send the notes to the Bank of England, London.

So, check your pockets and drawers and make sure you spend every one of the Darwin notes before March 1st.

Parking at General Meetings

Please do not park blocking the road up to the church or the vicarage as access is required to these buildings at all times

Crossword Solution
Across 1. demilitarised 8. versus 9. hieraft 10. amy
11. steer 12. been 13. airtight 14. nobles 18. assert
19. emaciated 20. snug 22. cater 24. able 26. demerara
27. linear 28. elephant grass
Down 1. dream 2. mistletoe 3. lasts 4. tallest
5. referenda 6. shrub 7. different 14. insincere
15. gatecrash 17. britanna 19. entrain 21. grebe
23. rolag 25. loans

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

Please send items for publication by email

to Malcolm Moss 24 Beechwood Drive Marple, SK67DG 0161 917 8902
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.mbm3a.org.uk

All contributions for the next edition of the Newsletter should be received no later than Wednesday 7th March

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 2018\19

To subscribe to the national U3A magazine, please complete the form below and send it, along with a cheque for £2.50, made out to Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A.

Send your cheque & form to:

U3A Membership Secretary, 24 Beechwood Drive, Marple, SK6 7DG

Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A

2018\19 Subscription Form for the National Magazine "Third Age Matters"

I would like to receive the Third Age Matters magazine for 2018\19.

Title (Mr/Mrs,etc).....Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

POST CODE.....

Telephone No.....

I enclose payment of £2.50 (preferably cheque, made out to Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A). This will cover all issues published in April, June, September, November 2018 and February 2019.

U3A Membership Secretary, 24 Beechwood Drive, Marple, SK6 7DG

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:.....