



The University of the Third Age

Reg. Charity No. 1104944

# Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A

## NEWSLETTER Jan 2020

### *Happy & Prosperous New Year*

#### *Chairman's Chatter*

*Happy New Year to all our members and I hope that you are all looking forward to an exciting year of new events and activities with our U3A.*

I always try to look for an inspiring quote or idea to make me think about my plans for the coming year in this fast-paced changing world ! Surprisingly I found the best quote from a writer and philosopher from antiquity! Many of us baulk at the new initiatives and ideas that we seem to be confronted with on a daily basis and yet this is nothing new. Greek and Roman writers often had a lot to say about human nature and its problems, many of which mirror our own experience. Aristotle in the 4th.Century BC made the following comment:-

*'Education is the best provision for old age.*

I thought how appropriate this quote was to us and the guiding principles on which the U3A organisation runs. We all try in our own way to widen our knowledge and attempt new challenges , whenever they may be possible. On a personal level I experienced my first balloon flight this year and as my husband was quick to point out; also my first crash landing! We often have to take the rough with the smooth in order to move ahead, but in many cases that makes it all the more worth it!

*Here's to some gentle crash landings!*

*Clare Gwilym*

### **Notice of Annual General Meeting**

**18th February 2019, 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 4th February, to allow for any necessary research for information

#### Agenda

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Approval of the minutes of the 2019 AGM
- 3 Chairman's Report
- 4 Treasurer's Report
- 5 Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Accounts
- 6 Election of Vice Chairman
- 7 Election of Committee Members
- 8 Members Annual Subscription for 2021
- 9 Any Other Business
- 10 Votes of Thanks

*If you have not renewed your membership for 2020, please do so asap and remember you **MUST** show your membership card at all U3A events*

*This is necessary because of U3A regulations regarding insurance*

*Please have your U3A Membership Card ready to show at the desk when you book in at monthly meetings, along with the £1 entrance fee*

*Please put your emergency telephone number on the back of your membership card*

## 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 2020\21

To subscribe to the national U3A magazine, please complete the form below and send it, along with a cheque for £2.75, made out to Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A.

Send your cheque & form to:

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

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Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A

2020\21 Subscription Form for the National Magazine "Third Age Matters"

I would like to receive the Third Age Matters magazine for 2020\21.

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

Address: .....

POST CODE.....Telephone No.....

I enclose payment of £2.75 (preferably cheque, made out to Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A).

This will cover all issues published in April, June, September, November 2020 and February 2021

Send your cheque & form to:-

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: .....

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## IMPORTANT NEWS - Did you know .... your bus pass is changing ?

Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) issues us with our pensioner bus pass which used to include free off-peak rail and tram use.

As from 1st February 2020, the use of rail and tram use in Greater Manchester will no longer be free as a new £10 annual charge will be payable. Your bus pass will continue to allow you free off peak travel across England.

Information about the new £10 annual charge to include free off-peak tram and train use for Pensioners' travel pass holders is now on the TfGM website: <https://tfgm.com/tickets-and-passes/add-tram-and-train>.

The £10 charge does not apply to concessionary passes for disabled people.

NOTE: The charge needs to be paid by 31st January if cardholders wish to use trams and trains for free from 1st February. Payment can be made from 5th January online or at a TfGM Travelshop.

How to add tram and train to your pass

The new scheme starts 1st February, but you'll be able to pay early from 5th January 2020, to make sure you're ready. If you pay early, you will be covered for one year from 1st February 2020.

After 1st February, you'll be covered for a full year from the date you pay.

You can pay the rail and tram charge :-

- in person at a TfGM Travelshop (there is one at Stockport bus station)
- in person at a PayPoint shop (from 25th January 2020 only)
- online at getmethere.com

To buy online, you will need to link your concessionary pass to a get me there account and can find more details and a step-by-step guide at [getmethere.com/add-a-card](http://getmethere.com/add-a-card).

**NOTE: If you pay on-line, you will need to touch-in with your concessionary pass at a Metrolink smart reader within 14 days, at any tram stop, and your pass will be updated to show you have paid to add tram and train**

# Outings Group

## Update on Isle of Wight holiday

Date: Sunday 12th of July - Saturday 18th of July 2020

6 nights / 7 days Dinner, Bed and Breakfast at Bourne Hall County House, Shanklin, Isle of Wight.

Price.....£788 ( based on 25 passengers) /. £850 ( based on 20 passengers).

£50 deposit at the time of booking made payable to Andrew's of Tideswell Ltd.

Insurance premium if required £39.50.

Bookings.....January, February and March general meetings.

## February - Wednesday. 12/02/20.....People's History Museum, "Free Entry"

Left bank,Spinningfields,Manchester M3 3ER 0161 8389190

People's History Museum in Manchester is the national museum of democracy , telling the story of it's development in Britain: past, present and future.

Bookings at the January general meeting. .

Meet at the Manchester Piccadilly station near platform 2 at 10:30am on Wednesday 12/02/20

## March - Monday 9/03/20 .....The Bridgewater Hall tour

plus an optional midday concert (£4pp + concert ticket price).

Join us on this Manchester's iconic international concert hall guided tour. The entertaining guides will tell you about the history and architecture of the hall including the opportunity to visit parts of the building not usually open to the public, including the atmospheric undercroft where you can see how the hall is built on giant springs (please note the undercroft is accessed by a flight of metal steps). The tour will last approximately one and half hour. The midday concert is by Jess Gilliam saxophone & Zeynep Ozsucu piano. Jess is a finalist in the 2016 BBC Young Musician of the Year.

Price.....£ 4pp for the tour. ( minimum number of 20 required ) Cost of £8 for the concert

Bookings from the January general meeting.

Meet at the concert hall at 11am on 9/03/20.

## April 2020 - Wednesday. 22/04/20.....Rufford Old Hall"

A trip to the " Hesketh"Family home since 16th century ( a Grade 1 listed building) run by the National Trust has been organised. A Tudor Gothic style mansion filled with collection of Gothic Revival furnishings, tapestries, stained glass, and arms and armour. Then enjoy a stroll in the formal gardens and woodlands.

Price.....£15 ( for coach hire and driver's gratuity) + entry fee

National Trust members free entry. None members...£9.50 (for group of more than 10 further reduction to £7.70 ).

Bookings.... January and February general meetings.

## May 2020 - Wednesday 06/05/20.....Bluebells at Renishaw Hall.

Home to Sitwells family for nearly 400 years, Renishaw hall, Renishaw Nr Sheffield is a hidden gem. It offer visitors both a cultural and visual spectacle as you enjoy the award winning gardens and historic hall especially the bluebells in the gardens and woodland at this of the year. Hope you can join us.

Price.....£28 includes coach travel, driver gratuity, guided tour of the hall and entrance to the gardens.

Bookings...February, March, April general meetings.

**For further informations regarding any of the above trips please contact  
The outings Group Leader "Hazel Bhatt" on tel.....07808809795.**

## 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, unless otherwise stated.

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 david.hammond60@btinternet.com 0161 366 8223.

Tuesday February 4th 2020 Geoff Fogg and Shirley Hammond

Meet in the car park at Bredbury Hall, Osborne Street, Bredbury, Stockport, SK6 2DH  
The Stroll Again we have tried to find somewhere that we can stroll without getting covered in mud. However be aware of the time of year and wear suitable footwear and warm waterproof clothing!  
We will stroll along Alan Newton way towards Chadkirk. As some of the side tracks could be muddy and involve steep inclines we will return along the same path.  
We can then drive to Woodley Precinct for some refreshments.

Tuesday March 3rd 2020 David Taylor

Meet outside the Regent Cinema in Marple, at 10.30am

The Stroll Cross Stockport Road via the tunnel and proceed up Lockside Road by the side of the Locks. Cross over the bridge where the Macclesfield Canal joins the Peak Forest Canal then stroll down past the Marina. Continue down the tow path by the side of the Peak Forest Canal to the bridge, before crossing Strines Road to the footpath. Stroll down the path (can be muddy at certain times of the year). Stroll down the steps (handrail) across the bridge over the railway line and down the steps along the side of the railway (downhill all the way). At the bottom turn right onto Lakes Road, (worth a stop to view the dig taking place at Samuel Oldknow's, Mellor Mill and Lodge). From the dig, carry on along Bottom Mill Road and onto Low Lea Road taking you into the village of Marple Bridge.

We can finishing at The Midland for refreshments.

Distance: approx. 2 miles

NOTE: Outside The Midland is a bus stop for the 384 bus into the centre of Marple.

Or for the more energetic a brisk walk up Brabyns Brow, onto the side of the canal, through Memorial Park and back into Marple Centre.

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## Walking Group

### Dec/Jan Walks

Group co-ordinator Sue Ward 0161 312 1621



|               |                         |      |          |                                    |
|---------------|-------------------------|------|----------|------------------------------------|
| Wed 5th Feb   | TBC                     | 5m   | moderate | +Carol Culley                      |
| Tues 11th Feb | Bramhall                | 4/5m | easy     | Sheila Stafford                    |
| Wed 19th Feb  | Alderly Edge/Hare Hill  | 4.5m | moderate | Judith Lynch                       |
|               |                         |      |          | <i>NATIONAL TRUST CARDS PLEASE</i> |
| Tues 25th Feb | Local                   | 5m   | moderate | Irene Riley                        |
| Wed 4th Mar   | TBC                     |      |          | John Bloor                         |
| Tues 10th Mar | Greenfield to Uppermill | 5m   | easy     | Jean Mitchell                      |
| Wed 18th Mar  | Broadbottom             | 6m   | moderate | Judy Rhodes                        |

In December, following a short but most enjoyable walk in the morning, our group congregated at the Pack Horse Inn to enjoy lunch together. A time to reflect over the past year, and to plan for the next in great company.

*New walkers are always welcome, so if you would like to join us on a walk in our beautiful countryside, in the most enjoyable company, then why not come along.*



# Crossword Compiled by Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A Crossword Group

compiled jointly by U3A Crossword Group

## Clues across

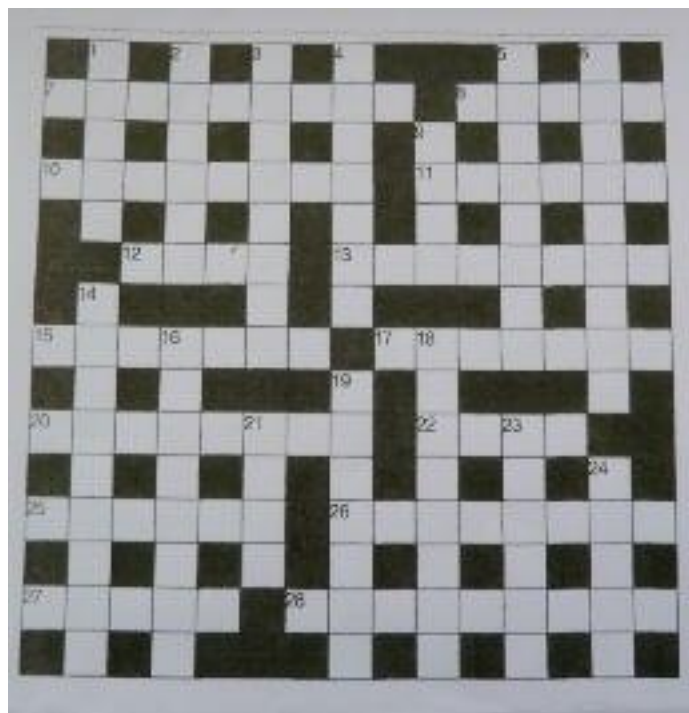
7. Soothed patella I'd broken (9)
8. Originally looked up many pals yearly but became uncomfortable. (5)
10. South heard to lean towards fold. (8)
11. Bets it's no good for easy walks. (6)
12. Until now I find legendary beast. (4)
13. Mr Trotter returned after a good time, but sizzled. (8)
15. Daughter with flower dead will drool. (8)
17. Russian Travelling Companion puts off having relations back. (7)
20. It'd be the death of Goliath to pet a droopy tulip without one. (8)
22. Land area inside sacred location. (4)
25. A waterway perhaps, used by boaters maybe. (6)
26. North working with feeling for example? Rubbish! (8)
27. Friends have first lecture inside – it's boring. (5)
28. Retrain me using measuring instrument. (9))

## Clues down

1. Clay mixture with unknown part of flower. (5)
2. French Bell hat. (6)
3. If I am all at sea it's to do with the relatives. (8)
4. Protection against attack of French on boundary. (7)
5. In Winter, rug by kitchen door sports wear. (5,3)
6. Spiteful about pencil set. (9)
9. Read a table to find the necessary information. (4)
14. Wreak a havoc in bay with an escape. (9)

## Clues down (cont)

16. Polar say, can be manageable. (8)
18. Smoothing piece of wood needs head of night-school to complete the plot. (8)
- 19 Eastern nation produces public schoolboy. (7)
21. State unequivocally the appointed heads at the outset. (4)
23. Smoking jacket? (6)
24. Girl in an awful pale state. (5) ashen



## Dining Group

Thank you to everybody who joined us for meals at Oaklands in November and Peruga in December  
The Dining Group is open to all members of Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A Please check us out  
if any meal appeals to you see us at the desk or after the meeting contact Pat or Shirley.  
Please be aware some venues have limited space



## Forthcoming Events

**JANUARY** An Evening at the Maple Tree in Marple Bridge on Wednesday 29th January 6.45 for 7.00  
(this venue is due to popular demand) £20 for three courses  
Bookings will still be taken at the January Meeting.

**FEBRUARY** An evening at The Catering College Ashton on Thursday 27th 7.00pm  
Five Courses for £21 ( It used to be called Reflections its new name is RESTAURANT at TAMESIDE  
ONE) New Directions will be given with your booking form.  
Bookings will be taken at the January Meeting

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

## Zumba Gold

Classes resumed on Friday 10th January 2020 at 10.00 am until 10.45 p.m. Price remains at  
£2.50 p.p. New members are welcome - please show your membership card for the new year.

## Book Sales at the Monthly Meetings

Due to the limited amount of storage space and the fact that hard back books and non fiction books  
are not popular, it is requested that Paper Back Fiction books are mainly brought for the Stall.  
Please do not bring any magazines as these also do not sell.

## CONTACTS

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## Speakers

21 Jan James Ellson  
"Eating Sprout Stalks -  
15 Steps to Self-sufficiency"  
(smallholder)

18 Feb Margaret Powell &  
Sharon Adamson  
"Mellor Country House"

17 Mar Paula Rabone  
"The History of Minshull  
Street Crown Court"

## Stop Press

### Poetry Group

We have found it necessary to move the location of our group meetings, due to two single track roads where we meet at present and thought a single venue would suit our older members better.

The Library has allowed us the use of a room, (rent free)  
Frances Sackett is taking over the role of Group Convener.

Crossword Solution  
Across 7. palliated 8. lumpy 10. Syncline 11. ambles  
12. yeti 13. cracked 15. Dribbled 17. Sputnik 20. cata-  
pult 22. Acre 25. Panama 26. nonsense 27. palls  
28 raimeter  
Down 1. calyx 2. Cloche 3. Familial 4. defence  
5. rugby kit 6. Splenic 9. Data 14. breakaway  
16. bearable 18. Planning 19 etonian 21) utah  
23. refer 24 ashen

This Newsletter appears bi-monthly. The next edition will be published March 2020

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 Wed 4th March 2020**