



The University of the Third Age

Reg. Charity No. 1104944

# Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A

## NEWSLETTER March 2020

### Chairman's Chatter

As the year moves on it is time for me to keep you updated with any significant current and forthcoming events which I hope you will be able to attend.

National headquarters has designated June 3rd as U3A day and it is hoped that U3As across the country will put on events to make people aware of the movement and what is available in each local area. I will be attending a Pennine Link meeting on March 13th where we will discuss what we can do in this area to promote ourselves. The Pennine Link comprises representatives from Marple, Romiley and New Mills U3As well as us. Some ideas have already been made, such as running a stall or passing out leaflets and having a presence in the local media. Also the showcasing of some of our interest groups. If you have any useful ideas or indeed connections that could help us, then please contact me as soon as possible.

Another area which needs attention is future planning regarding the committee and other jobs in our U3A. As I said at the AGM I have to step down as Chair next year and Barbara Scholes will step down as our Secretary. Both positions are vital to the successful running of the U3A and we need people to step forward and be involved. You can start by being co-opted onto the committee to see what happens and how we operate.

The U3A movement as a whole is moving forward and adapting to new ideas and we need fresh new ideas to help us continue in a fast changing world.  
Please give us a try!

Clare Gwilym

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### Our Charity 2020 - Blood Bikers

**Blood Bikers** - are volunteer motorcyclists .

Blood Bikes Manchester is a charity setup in Greater Manchester that transports Blood, Plasma, Platelets, Samples, Vaccines, Donor Breast Milk (DBM) & any other urgently required medical items to hospitals and healthcare sites- at night, daytime weekends and bank holidays.

This service is provided completely free of charge by their amazing volunteers who all offer their time for no pay or reward, allowing the NHS to divert funds where they are needed most. Working alongside a network of other blood bike charities covering a large proportion of the country.

All Blood Bikers work from home, with no expensive office or unit to pay for, the donations they receive do pay to provide the service. They have no paid staff and the volunteers don't claim any form of expenses.

We hope that you, our members, will be particularly helpful and generous in raising money for this excellent cause.



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### Coronavirus Advice

Latest Coronavirus Advice from the Third Age Trust CEO, Sam Mauer

*Important Please read the information on the last page attached to this Newsletter*

## *Gypsy at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester*

On 16th January 47 of our members attended the matinee performance of *Gypsy*, the musical. It is the story of a pushy show-biz mother Rose and her two girls, June the child starlet and Louise, a shy second fiddle to her younger sister. When June elopes Rose ruthlessly turns her attention to Louise who is a total disaster as a 'cute child star'. However, when they are booked in error into a burlesque theatre Louise suddenly turns from ugly duckling into the self assured main attraction, *Gypsy* Rose Lee, strip tease artiste.

The musical has some memorable songs, *Let Me Entertain You*, *Everything's Coming Up Roses*, the comic song *Have A Spring Roll*, *Mr. Goldstone* and of course the iconic *Rose's Song*, when at last we begin to understand her own frustrated ambitions to be a star.

It was somewhat disappointing that we had Rebecca Thornhill, the understudy for Rhia Jones (Rose), for our performance and at times some scenes felt too drawn out (whole performance was 3 hours 10 mins.). Nevertheless, overall we were treated to a sparkling, enthusiastic slick show from all the players (the costume changes were so smooth) and we felt we had certainly been well and truly 'entertained'.

*Another triumph for the Royal Exchange.*

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## *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](mailto:joanfogg@btinternet.com) 0161 430 3517 or Shirley Hammond [david.hammond60@btinternet.com](mailto:david.hammond60@btinternet.com) 0161 366 8223, 07411 352 801 Don't forget your bus pass in case we need to ride back! Bring a drink over the summer months! Please wear appropriate footwear in case it is wet underfoot.

We have quite a large group of members who join us for a variety of strolls exploring different areas around our area and the surrounding countryside. We benefit from outside exercise as well as joining in enjoyable social occasions. We do need some of you to help to plan future strolls.

Tuesday April 7th 2020 Mike Hawkins

Meet at the Woodley Precinct at 10.30 outside the Iceland shop. SK6 1RJ.

The Stroll - Initially stroll towards the canal and then along the towpath. Cross over the fields to the top end of Woodley. Return to the canal via Gravel Bank Road and stroll back towards the Precinct along the tow path. - Distance: approx. 2 miles

We can then go to one of the cafés in Woodley Precinct for a drink and a natter. Some of you may choose to have their lunch as well.

Tuesday May 5th 2020 Carol and Colin Burkitt

Meet outside the Regent Cinema in Marple, at 10.30am. Bring your bus pass.

The Stroll - Walk through the Memorial Park to the canal and continue along the canal towpath to Station Road. Cross Station Road and continue along the towpath for a short distance before bearing right into Brabyns Park to the bridge over the river and continue straight along to Compstall Road. Cross Compstall Road and walk along the pavement into Etherow Park, for refreshments in the café. Return to Marple on the bus (every 15 minutes) from Compstall - don't forget your bus pass.

Distance approx. 2 miles on good paths downhill or flat.

Tuesday June 2nd 2020 Olwyn Wych

Meet outside the Regent Cinema in Marple, at 10.30am

The Stroll

To follow.

## Outings Group

### April - 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 ).

### May - 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. March, April general meetings.

### June - Tuesday 09/06/20 Ashford in the Water Well Dressing and Buxton Market Day

A trip to Ashford in the Water Well Dressing and Flower Festival. We will spend 2 hours in Ashford giving plenty of time to visit the 6 well dressings and the flower festival in the parish church. All are within easy strolling distance. Maps with a story of each well can be bought from the local shops. Take time to enjoy the river view from the low arched medieval Sheepwash Bridge and feed the ducks. We will then travel the half hours journey to Buxton where there is the regular outdoor market. There are plenty of places for lunch in Buxton or walk up to the Pavilion and Gardens for a picnic. We will spend approximately 2 hours in Buxton leaving about 4pm.

Price ....£13 pp which includes coach hire and driver's gratuity.

Cheque only please made payable to MB&MU3A outings.

Bookings .... March and April general meetings.

Pickup points. Rose Hill station 9:15am. Regent cinema 9:20am. Marple Bridge bus stop 9:25am

N'thumbland Arms 9:35am Romiley Arms 9:45am.

Organiser.....Kath Leigh (07712 657595)

### July - Sunday 12/07/20 to Saturday 18/07/20 Isle of Wight holiday

### August Thursday 20/08/20 Southport Flower Show

You will see inspirational show gardens with unique features.

The bandstand has a varied programme of music and there will be a range of entertainment in the arena.

Visit Southport's famous Lord Street

The show ground is located in Victoria Park which is a 10 minute walk to the town centre and the famous Lord Street.

Departure Times Rose Hill Station 8.45 am Regent Cinema 8.50 am Marple Bridge 8.55am

Northumberland Arms 9.00 am Romiley Arms 9.05am

We will leave the showground at 4.30 pm, planning to arrive home at approx 6pm.

The cost of this great day out is £34.50 per head, including entrance ticket, coach travel and driver's gratuity.

Bookings will be taken at the June and July meetings.

Organiser: Carol Rice.

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

# Walking Group

## Walk Grading

Very Easy – More or less flat, good surface, few stiles    Easy – Small sections of hill, not too rough, limited stiles

Moderate – Typical of local terrain

Moderate plus – more climbing and/or more stiles

All walks meet IN Brabyns Park Car Park for prompt departure at 9.45 am. Car passengers are asked to contribute 10p per mile to petrol cost.

Walking safety: Footwear (walking boots), clothing and equipment need to be suitable for the conditions likely to be encountered. This area is famous for changeable weather so come prepared for all eventualities. Bring your mobile phone and inform the leader of your phone number and that of an emergency contact. Provide your own first aid kit.

Refreshments: Bring more than adequate food and drink for the length of walk and weather conditions.

Remember delays sometimes occur.

(D) Indicates that walk is some distance away and will therefore take longer. All walks are subject to change.

Please stay with the group unless you have arranged with the leader to do otherwise.



"We have had some good winter walks recently in spite of cold weather and very boggy conditions underfoot. Our numbers vary depending on the proposed walk and the day, but the leaders have designed some interesting routes, for which we are grateful. Last week we had 11 people enjoying a moderate walk from Lyme park and this week only 4 people braved the cold and hail showers, but never-the-less we had a good time enjoying the fresh air, exercise and beautiful surroundings of Bramhall Park.

Our programme is varied in day, place and grade of walks, so we hope to provide something for everyone. We would welcome any new comers - details are to be found on the programme."

## Apr/May Walks

Group co-ordinator Sue Ward 0161 312 1621

Wed 1 st Apr	Haughton Dale	5m moderate	Val / Roy Bradshaw
Tue 7 th Apr	Bollington	5m moderate	Sue Ward
Tue 14 th Apr	Edale Valley	5 moderate	Sheila Stafford
Wed 22 nd Apr	Lindow Common	5.5m easy	Carol Culley
Tue 28 th Apr	Lantern Pike	5.5m moderate +	Judy Rhodes
Wed 6 th May	Cown Edge Rocks	5m moderate	Judith Lynch
Tue 12 th May	Chapel	5m easy / mod	Irene Riley
Wed 20 May	TBC		John Bloor
Tue 26 th May	Litton, Tideswell, Cressbrook Dales	5m moderate	Jean Mitchell



## Mellor Country House

The speakers at our February meeting were Margaret and Sharon from Mellor Country House Their next funding event is the Annual Plant Sale being held on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th May from 10 am until 4pm on both days. They have a huge selection of bedding plants, hanging baskets that are fabulous and very popular, and a large variety of shrubs all at really great prices.

If you are interested in popping along you are very welcome, feel free to browse around at your own speed.

Orders are taken in advance for beautiful hanging baskets and bedding plants please watch our website [www.mellorcountryhouse.co.uk](http://www.mellorcountryhouse.co.uk) and Face Book, Mellor Country House and Twitter

@<https://twitter.com/MellorCountryHouse> for more information nearer the time. **Watch out for the forms being distributed at our April meeting** or please phone 0161 427 1893 and speak to Sharon

# Crossword Compiled by Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A Crossword Group

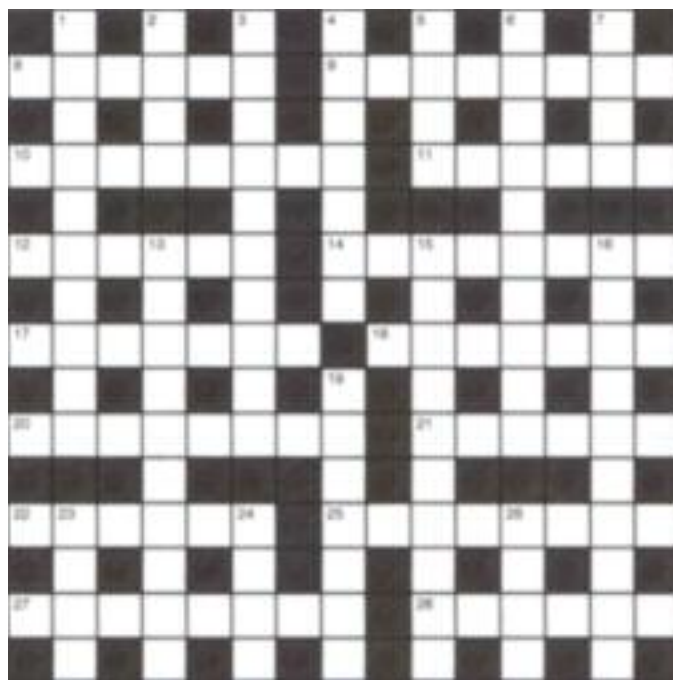
compiled jointly by U3A Crossword Group

## Clues across

8. Kicking off, Charlie is charging around dodging an insect. (6)
9. Surreptitiously sent holy revelation. (2,3,3)
10. Ambiguous pair crept closer. (3-5)
11. Remove from office original despotic egocentric plonker of scant empathy. (6)
12. Pass on regular Shell fuel. (6)
14. Call after teen tripped coming in. (8)
17. Snake is tail-less and confused with an appendix. (7)
18. Primarily Boris enrages socialists in European green economy attack. (7)
20. Pickle quietly put on one side. (8)
21. Urinated over the French and took their skin off. (6)
22. Little room to be intimate with time. (6)
25. Distrusts religious group hiding American power. (8)
27. Enter and lie about limit of timber growth. (4,4)
28. Going out, duo had sex – naughty! (6)

## Clues down

1. Camera part wife driven to replace. (10)
2. Sounds like a useless wind sock. (4)
3. Suspend sort of girdle for person flying free under canopy. (4-6)
4. Traded, that's right Tommy. (7)
5. Dust somehow stops the footballer slipping. (4)
6. Bizarrely, Joe praised to risk damage. (10)



## Clues down (cont)

7. Timeless supporter of the globe, heigh-ho! (4)
13. One member of the family will tread on another. (10)
15. Very French one going by is a sinner. (10)
16. It's remiss to disregard loud university student. (10)
19. Missing North made salesman sick with infection. (7)
23. Rely alas on old instrument. (4)
24. Small group says "Time for port". (4)
26. River Island toy with Egyptian leader on the up. (4)

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## Dining Group



Thank you to everybody who joined us for meals at  
The Maple Tree in January and Restaurant at Tameside One in February

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 Walker or Shirley Hammond. Please be aware some venues have limited space

## Forthcoming Events

### MARCH

An Evening Meal at The FISHERMANS TABLE in Marple on Wednesday 25th March 6.30 for 7.00  
£20 for three courses ( there are supplement's on two of the main meals)  
Bookings will still be taken at the February & March Meetings

### April

An evening at The MIDLAND in Marple Bridge on Wednesday 29th  
£21 for Three courses 6.00 for 6.30pm  
Bookings will be taken at the March & April Meetings

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

## CONTACTS

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## Speakers

17 Mar Paula Rabone  
"The History of Minshull  
Street Crown Court"  
21 April Philip Davenport  
"Long Walk to Jerusalem"  
19 May Colin Alderson  
"Life in the Palace Kitchens"  
(Balmoral, Windsor and Sandringham)

*Unless otherwise notified the ordinary monthly meetings are held at St Paul's Church Hall, Compstall on the third Tuesday of each month at 9-30 (for coffee and socializing) and the business part of the meeting begins at 10-15am and will finish at 11-45am approx.*

**Crossword Solution**  
Across 8. cicada 9. on the sly 10. two-edge 11. depose  
12. diesel 14. Entering 17. Addenda 18. besiege 20. preserve  
21. Peeled 22. Closet 25. suspects 27. tree line 28. exodus  
Down 1. viewfinder 2. Vane 3. hang-glider  
4. soldier 5. stud 6. Jeopardise 7. Alas  
13. stepister 15. trespasser 16. Neglectful  
19. measles 23. lyre 24. Trio 26. eyot

This Newsletter appears bi-monthly. The next edition will be published May 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 6th May 2020**

# Coronavirus Advice

## Latest Coronavirus Advice from the Third Age Trust CEO, Sam Mauger

This is our latest coronavirus update. We will continue to update the advice when required to respond to any further developments in the spread of the virus.

We understand that each committee will assess the risk to their members and make the decisions that they feel can ensure the safety of their members, taking into account any known risks at that time.

We would ask U3A committees and members to keep fellow members up to date with advice about coronavirus.

### ***The National U3A Trust advice is currently as follows:***

At all times members should follow the most up to date government advice about coronavirus. We hope that coronavirus will not affect any of our members.

If a member has returned from one of the areas identified by the government and has any of the symptoms identified on the government website they should not hold interest groups in their own homes, or attend interest groups or attend monthly meetings until they have followed the NHS advice provided after calling 111

If a U3A finds that a member has contracted coronavirus, please let the Trust know immediately

The members of interest groups that any member with coronavirus has attended should all call 111 to ask for advice

The monthly meeting should be cancelled for that month (and possibly longer) until the spread of the virus has been assessed.

In general a U3A may consider other precautions such as using hand sanitiser gel in interest groups and monthly meetings and reducing physical contact such as shaking hands until further information becomes available.