

## *Chairman's Seasonal Chatter*

I hope that you are all staying well and keeping up your spirits as the winter approaches and darker nights are around the corner. As I write the wind is whirling leaves outside and driving the rain against the windows, quite a change from the pleasant weather we were enjoying just a few weeks ago.

It is hard to be positive faced with the continuing restrictions we are experiencing, but there are things about the winter months which I'm sure we all look forward to:- sitting round a cosy fireplace sipping hot chocolate or mulled wine; eating hot dogs or chestnuts and treacle toffee on bonfire night; putting up pretty lights and decorations to brighten the darker nights and eating warming soups and stews; watching a scary movie and eating popcorn at Halloween time; bracing walks in the countryside while well wrapped up against the wind and rain. I'm sure you can think of others!

In spite of the restrictions we have managed to maintain communications within our U3A and we recently held our first general meeting using zoom. A local musician and raconteur, Roger Browne regaled us with tales of his life in music and played some of his favourite musical pieces. A large number of people who joined us for that event said how much they had enjoyed it and we are hoping to organise some more events, along similar lines, in the near future.

We have also been able to continue the work of the committee by holding our meetings using zoom, and I would like to thank everyone on the committee for their support during this time, in spite of having their own problems to deal with. Three members have been undergoing treatment ( not covid related )and others have relatives who have been ill, and I'm sure that you would all want to wish them a speedy recovery. Other members of the committee have relatives and friends who are working on the frontline in the NHS and this is a source of constant worry as well.

Last month I wrote about the importance of maintaining contact in whatever way possible and I hope that we will all be able to do this during the next few months, which could be the most testing so far!

' One of the most important things you can do on this earth, is to let people know that they are not alone.' A quote from Shannon L. Alder

*Clare Gwilym*

## *Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A - Renewal of Membership 2021*

The committee has decided that due to the current situation, and the fact that we have not been able to meet since March this year, and do not know how soon we will be able to meet, existing members will not have to pay a Membership Fee for 2021. Any new members will still have to pay the £10.00 Membership Fee when they join.

We still have to keep a record of members for 2021 and therefore **you must** complete the Membership Renewal Form (which is on the end of this Newsletter) and return it to the Membership Secretary, with a stamped addressed envelope so that your new Membership Cards can be returned to you by post, they will be sent out in January.

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



## Meetings on Zoom Upcoming Zoom events in Nov & Dec 2020

Please put these dates in your diaries - Nov 17th & Dec 8th

Although we are still not able to meet in person we have been able to arrange for our monthly meetings to continue using the Zoom system. Carol has purchased a Zoom licence on behalf of our U3A and this means that we will be able to host future guest speakers. It also has the added benefit that you can sit in the comfort of your own home to participate, without having to trudge to the church hall in the cold winter months!

We have arranged a speaker for

**Nov 17th - Kath Reynolds and she will give a light-hearted talk entitled 'Tis the season to be jolly.'**

Invitations with the details you need to log on will be sent out a couple of days beforehand.

We have also arranged for a programme of pre -Christmas entertainment on

**Dec 8th which will include well known songs and carols to sing along with; some poems and stories; as well as a topical Christmas themed quiz.**

**This event will be hosted for us by Roger Browne**, who entertained us so ably in October. We thought it might be a nice idea for us all to have a Christmas drink to hand, for a toast and a candle which we will all light together at the end. Christmas jumpers and hats would be a nice optional extra if you have them to hand as well. Details will be sent out by email, just prior to the event and Shirley will send out the questions for the quiz in advance.

We hope that you will be able to join us for at least one of these events. Our starting time for both events will be 10.15 am but we would like you all to try and log on between 10 & 10.15 am, so that the meeting isn't interrupted by the host having to let people in once it has started.

*Hope to see you all there - U3A committee*



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## Postponement of Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A's AGM

Due to the restrictions caused by the Corona Virus the committee have decided to postpone this year's AGM. It will now take place on the third Tuesday in April, April 20th 2021, in place of the usual 3rd Tuesday in February, February 16th. We will keep you informed of arrangements as things develop.

This will only affect this coming AGM and will revert to the normal arrangements for 2022.

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## U3A New Winter Learning Programme Published: 16 October 2020

Keep Learning - The initiatives will be launched in a staggered way on the National u3a's learning pages.

Already up are the following initiatives so go to the Website below to find out more:

Made it! Make it! gets a Christmas update.

National poetry competition.

U3A Maths Week ("Don't retire from maths - count yourself in!")

U3A Radio Podcast - Second programme to be released w/b 16th November.

Friday Watercolour Painters - A series of five workshops led by a U3A member.

Programme of free talks delivered by members.

Programme of 'external' talks, including an upcoming event with the National Gallery.

Excitingly, these are still to come so keep checking back on the learning pages to find out more.



Poetry reading sessions

Winter Watch, a photographic challenge to submit your wintry photos.

Paint or Draw (POD), a monthly art challenge.

Christmas Choir - Group carol singing led by a U3A member.

*To look at this article type in your search bar - [www.u3a.org.uk/new-winter-learning-programme-2020](http://www.u3a.org.uk/new-winter-learning-programme-2020)*

# What our Members have been doing during LOCKDOWN



## Lands End to John o' Groats by exercise bike

Since the 16th March I have been peddling my exercise bike 7 km per day. I will be in John O Groats by 30th November. I have made 2 bird boxes and a bird bath out of recycled wood and my garden now has flowers in it.

Margaret Williams

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## How do we deal with the lockdown?



U3A is offering us the opportunity for social interactions like learning a new skill, sharing our experiences or joining in our *General Meetings*. Suddenly it all stopped and we had to deal with being stuck in our houses and gardens.

Many of us are likely to have started little projects and it would be really interesting to hear from you what you have enjoyed.

I thought, I start by sharing what it has been like for me.

I have stayed with my son and his family. We have been a busy household and not felt isolated but I have had limited responsibilities and needed my own little project.

I was lucky as he has a garden. Part of it was a large soil heap and he allowed me to start a vegetable plot I then joined a lot of other people that have enjoyed working in their gardens due to limited access to other activities.

The Allotment Society has announced a 40% increase in applications and it is also argued that we have an inbuilt need to return to nature and grow our own food during a pandemic. My plot is only temporary as it will be decking next year. It has not made it any less fun to prepare the soil, plan the outlay, sow the seeds, harvest the vegetables and make pickles and chutneys.



Well, It is easy to get hooked.

My little granddaughter has worked hard with me and enjoyed watering, pulling up the vegetables and cleaning them. There is such a pleasure to see children's love of growing food.

It does not matter how difficult things might be around us, the seasons will still come around, the seeds will grow and the birds will sing.

## PRoW (footpath) Inspector for the PNFS

Not being able to do my usual summer "volunteer" of assessing Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions, I instead became a PRoW (footpath) inspector for the PNFS.

My 2 civil parishes are Little and Great Longstone. This includes Monsal Head. So I have had a delightful summer and autumn walking footpaths; albeit one or two were challenging to locate.

One of the many iconic green metal way markers of the Peak and Northern Footpath Society.

Ann Haden



## Crossword Compiled by Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A Crossword Group

*compiled jointly by U3A Crossword Group*

### Clues across

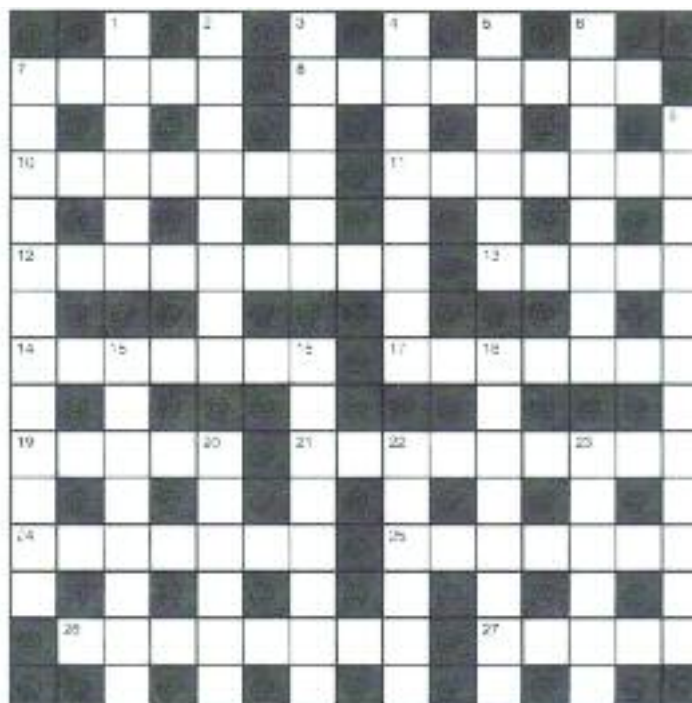
7. Marriage under no impressions of normality from the beginning. (6)
8. Design a cover to keep the cold out. (8)
10. First drink poured when lacking energy. (7)
11. Avert A&E exchange for one side of Liverpool. (7)
12. Plebiscites where judge earned correction. (9)
13. It's the Covid hotspot, from now on restrictions to hospitality start. (5)
14. Grumbled, but not my first to be spoken. (7)
17. He subjects to analysis as for instance the head of state. (7)
19. Harvests pears for fermentation. (5)
21. Trouble I can master without a scoundrel. (9)
24. Sewers are almost redundant. (7)
25. After a little time I start chasing after bus or taxi. (7)
26. Someone from the Government's not working. Put in charge of one with a student. (8)
27. Wear something smarter, Odeon's reopening. (5)

### Clues down

1. Quietly fail cooking first food with rice. (6)
2. Four points (not all different) are principle reasons he pulls people in. (8)
3. Capital student floats on the river. (6)
4. A rare Med resort used as a sweetener. (8)
5. Rock fragments to the north form a barrier. (6)

The crossword compiling group are not able to meet at the moment to discuss our clues due to the current situation, however, members sent me their homework and I have put together the usual joint effort,

*Sheila Stafford Group Co-ordinator*



### Clues down cont.

6. Proficient mates worked well on the short railway. (8)
7. Hidden danger could be below the stream. (12)
9. Unkind cleaner in group is competent. (12)
15. Compromise as the shop closes. (5-3)
16. Medics to arrange for a paid cleaner. (8)
18. Left on the shore, heartless Dan trades plastic. (8)
20. Writer Ms Plath, who is she in song? (6)
22. Test from flotsam, pleasant it is not. (6)
23. Security man chortled somewhat. (6)





## Information and Stories from Our Groups

### Outings Group

I hope everyone is keeping safe and well. I am sorry that we haven't been able to go out and about this year but I have planned few virtual trips from the New Year.

During January, I have booked for the members of Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A to watch online pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk". I will email the instructions how to login on YouTube when I receive the information.

During February, join me on YouTube to visit the Lake District. Your tour guide will be an Australian Rich Steves and his post is called "North England's Lake District and Durham". It is only 25 mins long but remind you of the lovely places you may have visited before.

Finally, I have rebooked the Isle of Wight trip which will be from 3rd of May 2021 based at The Royal Esplanade in Ryde. Further details available from me later. Hope we can travel by then and you are able to join us.

For further information email me at [grandmabhatter@gmail.com](mailto:grandmabhatter@gmail.com) or contact number 07808809795.

*Hazel Bhatt*

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### Bowling Group



The Bowling group has recently been able to meet under the strict covid rules



*Bill Prophet Group Leader*

## Strolling Group

Well, weren't we lucky! Amidst the constant downpours and strong winds we found a couple of hours of calm, dry weather and the sun even managed to shine on us whilst we were strolling. It proved to be a most successful morning, thoroughly enjoyed by our group of strollers.



Care was taken to ensure that everyone completed a personal risk assessment, as well as reading and agreeing to our general strolling group risk assessment. Three stroll leaders each had a group of up to 5 others, keeping a distance between each group, thereby complying with the "rule of 6". We stressed from the start that members must abide by the "social distancing rule".

I must admit to some apprehension prior to the stroll, but there was no need for my concern. Our members excellently considered the safety of others as well as their own.

With being in small groups, even though keeping our distance, we were able to chat, joke, discuss the area and generally enjoy the company of others whom we hadn't seen for quite a while. The strollers strengthened the confidence I have in our members to once again begin to "Live Laugh and Learn" together, despite any challenges they may face! Well done everyone who took part in this stroll and thank you so much for the many e mails of appreciation I received afterwards.



Despite our further "lockdown" in Greater Manchester we are still allowed to meet in groups of up to 6.

My intention, unless anything changes, is to continue arranging strolls on the first Tuesday of each month. However, for now, people will have to book in with me prior to each stroll, providing their contact details for track and trace and enabling me to arrange us into groups of 6 in order to abide by the regulations. We will need to strictly adhere to these rules. If strollers do not follow them, then we won't be able to continue.

Any other members, who wish to be included in the contact list, please send your e mail to me at [membershipsecretary@mbmu3a.org.uk](mailto:membershipsecretary@mbmu3a.org.uk)

*Shirley Hammond*



## CONTACTS

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**National Website:** www.u3a.org.uk

## Joke Corner

What is Santa's favourite pizza?  
Ans;- Deep pan, crisp and even.

Where are the Andes?  
Ans;- On the end of your armies.

Who delivers presents to baby sharks at Christmas?  
Ans;- Santa Jaws, of course

What is black and white and noisy?  
Ans;- A zebra with a drum kit!

Which of Santa's reindeer have the best moves?  
Ans;- Dancer and Prancer of course

Why don't you ever see Father Christmas in hospital?  
Ans;- Because he has private Elf care.

Why did the turkey join the band?  
Ans;- Because it had the drumsticks.

Why is it getting harder to buy Advent calendars?  
Ans;- Because their days are numbered.



**Crossword Solution**  
Across 1. Union 8. Overcoat 10. Drained 11. Everton  
12. Referenda 13. North 14. Uttered 17. Assayer  
19. Reaps 21. Mischance 24. Needles 25. Minicab  
26. Official 27. Erode  
Down 1. Pillaff 2. Ensnarer 3. London 4. Demerara  
5. Screen 6. Masterly 7. Undercurrent 9. Uncharitable  
15. Trade-off 16. Domestic 18. Stranded 20. Sylvia  
22. Sample 23. Anchor

This Newsletter appears bi-monthly. The next edition will be published January 2021  
Please send items for publication by email

to Malcolm Moss, 24 Beechwood Drive, Marple, SK67DG  
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 30th Dec 2020**

# Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A Membership Renewal Application 2021

Membership is from 1st January each year.

There is no fee for existing members for 2021 due to the Covid situation in 2020 (fee only waived for 2021)

**You must however complete a Renewal form in order to maintain your membership.**

If the details you are filling in have not changed since last year please tick this box

Send the completed form to

**Membership Secretary, 5 Walnut Close, Hyde, SK14 3SQ Telephone 0161 366 8223**

You need to send a SAE for your card to be returned as there are no meetings at the moment

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

**Please use a separate form if the people applying are from different addresses**

1. TITLE.....1st NAME ..... SURNAME.....

EMAIL: .....PHONE \ mobile.....

ADDRESS ..... POST CODE .....

RELATIVE/FRIEND PHONE NUMBER/S (in case of incident whilst on U3A activity).....

2. TITLE..... 1st NAME .....SURNAME .....

EMAIL: .....PHONE \ mobile .....

ADDRESS ..... POST CODE .....

RELATIVE/FRIEND PHONE NUMBER/S (in case of incident whilst on U3A activity).....

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

All members must tick the boxes below to indicate their agreement of membership terms:

- Abide by the Principles of the U3A movement and the Terms and Conditions of the Constitution.
- Always act in the best interests of the U3A, treating other members with respect and courtesy at all times.
- Advise the committee of any change in your personal details.

I/We will abide by the terms of membership as stated above

## PRIVACY STATEMENT

Please tick the box below to give us permission to use the information you have supplied in the following ways:

- To store it securely for membership purposes
- To communicate with you as a U3A member either in email or newsletters
- To share with group leaders of those groups for which you are a member
- To use your photograph in newsletters participating in a U3A group activity
- To send you information about the Third Age Trust (the national organisation to which U3As are affiliated)

I/We consent to personal data being used for purposes as described above

**I/We apply for membership of Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A**

**Signed: 1st Member .....Signed: 2nd Member.....**

Please be advised that you can request for your data not to be used for any purposes at any time by contacting us:  
[membershipsecretary@mbmu3a.org.uk](mailto:membershipsecretary@mbmu3a.org.uk)

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 with your membership form, size 230mm x 160mm (size A5)

If any of your details change throughout the year, including email, address or telephone numbers please inform the Membership Secretary of these.