

March 2021 Newsletter

Chairman's Chatter



This will be my final chairman's chat to you all before I step down in April, after completing my three year term of office as chair of MBMU3A. It has been an interesting three years; not least because of the pandemic and the fact that we have had to adapt to the changing situation. We were on the cusp of beginning to use more modern technology and already had the Beacon system and a new website in place. This meant that we were in a good position to experiment with using Zoom as a medium for our monthly meetings and though it has its faults, it does mean that we are able to keep in touch with the majority of members and pursue some activities. We will also be having an online AGM this year as well!

I firmly believe that if we are members of an organisation that we should all be prepared to offer something back in return, especially when it is a voluntary organisation such as ours. That is why I joined the committee and was prepared to do my stint as Chair of the committee when it was offered. The committee always needs new people and fresh, innovative ideas to keep the movement appealing and exciting to our members. So, I would like to encourage all of you to get involved and try serving on the committee, even if it's only for a year or two. Many people have skills and knowledge which can be of benefit, so don't underestimate what you might be able to offer.

The work of the committee has continued throughout the various Lockdowns we have experienced and I want to thank everyone who has assisted me to continue with all the 'behind the scenes' work that has had to be done throughout the year and which is often overlooked.

I hope that we will be able to continue, in spite of any further restrictions and that we will return to some sort of normality by the end of this year. My best wishes to everyone for the future.

Clare Gwilym

Notice of Annual General Meeting

This will be a virtual meeting to be held on Zoom
at 10am on Tuesday 20th April 2021

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Approval of the minutes of the 2020 AGM
- 3 Chairman's Report
- 4 Approval of the Treasurers Report
- 5 Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Accounts
- 6 Election of Chairman
- 7 Election of Vice Chairman
- 8 Election of Secretary
- 9 Election of Committee Members
- 10 Members Annual Subscription for 2022
- 11 Votes of Thanks

Instructions for the voting procedure are enclosed with the AGM papers which are being sent out by post for non-internet members and by email for those with an email account. The zoom AGM invitation will be sent out on email nearer the time

Blood Bikes Manchester –Who are they and what do they do?

We recently listened to a zoom presentation by Paul Redfern who was responsible for the establishment of the Manchester branch of Blood Bikes. It would have been our chosen charity for 2020 but with the pandemic came the closure of our U3A and no opportunity to engage in any fundraising activities. If you've never heard of them before you may be thinking, what on earth are Blood Bikes and what do they do? Here are some facts about their work.



Blood Bikes is an entirely voluntary organisation which delivers blood and blood products to hospitals all over the UK. They provide this service 24 hrs a day throughout the year and they are often described as 'The unseen emergency service.' There are now 30 groups in the UK and Ireland, completing 1 job every 4 & a half minutes. Riders work together, a bit like a relay team, to transport products over huge distances: sometimes from one end of the country to the other. Riders are tracked from the control room by the Duty Controller of each area and the position of each bike is constantly monitored. The riders are all volunteers, but are experienced and highly qualified riders.

Apart from blood products, they also transport frozen breast milk, baby monitors, some blood specimens and samples for cancer hospices and sometimes urgent medication. They joined forces with the air ambulance team two years ago to assist with the delivery of blood plasma and all air ambulances now hold a supply of blood which can be used on scene when they attend an emergency. Blood bikes have also signed an agreement to deliver to the Nightingale hospitals in the North West

As you can see their work is varied and it is reckoned that they save the NHS approximately £500,000 a year. The North West branch of Blood Bikes alone needs £45,000 a year to continue to keep running and they rely entirely on donations.

**If you feel that you would like to donate to their work, then please send a cheque made payable to 'Blood Bikes Manchester', to the address below:-
c/o 1, Hearthstone Close, Cheadle. SK8 2NW**

Do not send any cash and do not make any cheques payable to our U3A.

Notices & News Items

Marple Bridge & Mellor u3a Zoom Meetings all commence at 10.00am

We are continuing to hold our Monthly meetings on ZOOM and they are as follows

16th March	Craig Wright	The Story of Rose Hill Station
20th April	Annual General Meeting	
18th May	Holly Reynolds	Walking back to Happiness (50's and 60's songs)

Look out the week before for the Zoom invitation

Isle of Wight Trip

The Isle of Wight tour planned for the beginning of May now can not go ahead due to current Covid restrictions. However, another potential date has been arranged for the 5th of July. Details will be released later via email communication & in the next newsletter.

In the mean time, why not join a few virtual tours on YouTube (personally I would recommend an American tour guide "Rick Steves" who gives a balanced view of the area he is visiting such as history of the place , attractions, culture etc).

There are several online events organised by the National U3A which may be of interest to some of you. For example on Thursday the 18th of March at 11am in conjunction with the National Gallery a Zoom meeting has been organised on "Turner and Mythology " price £5.50. Be sure to book early if you are interested (to book put www.u3a.org.uk then click on learn, online events).

Hazel Bhatt

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 2021\22

To subscribe to the national U3A magazine, please complete the form below and send it, along with a cheque for £3.50, made out to Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A.

Send your cheque & form to:

5 Highfield Road, Marple, Stockport, SK6 7NG

Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A

2021\22 Subscription Form for the National Magazine "Third Age Matters"

I would like to receive the Third Age Matters magazine for 2021\22.

Title (Mr/Mrs, etc)Name:

Address:

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

I enclose payment of £3.50 (preferably cheque, made out to Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A).

This will cover all issues published in April, June, September, November 2021 and February 2022

Send your cheque & form to:-

Carol Rice, 5 Highfield Road, Marple, Stockport, SK6 7NG

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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Dare to Dream

Carol Rice spotted this poem on the Facebook page of "u3a Keeping in Touch" and thought you might find it relevant to the current times we find ourselves in?

Today, I dared to let myself dream,
That the world will one day open again.
That the locks will loosen, the walls will fall,
The doors will fly open and reunite us all.

I dared to imagine the warmth of a cuddle,
A group of my friends all locked in a huddle.
I felt all the heartbeats, drumming with mine,
I heard all the laughter, I tasted the wine.

I thought of the feelings I've missed for long,
The room full of music, united by song.
The freedom to roam, to plan and to meet
To hold someone's hand, to meet, to greet.

Just for a moment I dared to dream of,
The flights I would board to the places I love.
The moment those eyes would meet mine at the gate,
The feeling of joy after so long a wait.

Today, I dared to let myself dream,
That the life we once had would happen again.
That we'd no longer fear the danger of air,
That our lives would not depend on such care.

They say that we mustn't wish time away,
But it's hard, my friend, when faced with a day,
So long in blank hours and so wiped of laughter,
It's tempting to drift away to thereafter.

So yes, I dared to dream just a while,
Of life coming back, it brought me a smile.
One day I know, this will be in the past,
And hugs will be free, again, at last.

By Donna Ashworth



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

to Malcolm Moss,

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 Wed 28th April 2021***