

May 2021 Newsletter

Chairman's Chatter

This is my first newsletter as your Chairman. For those who don't know me, I am Carol Rice. I have been a member of Marple Bridge & Mellor u3a since 2010 and have served on the Committee, first as membership secretary and then as Systems Manager, supporting the Beacon computerised system which is our membership and communication system.

It's an honour for me to serve as your new Chairman. I am looking forward to working alongside all the committee members who give their time tirelessly, working together and supporting the Chairman and the work of our wonderful u3a.

I particularly would like to thank Clare Gwilym the outgoing Chair. Clare led the committee in an exceptional manner especially through the difficult time of the Covid19 pandemic.

I am humbled by the generosity and selflessness of our u3a volunteers. This includes not only committee members, but the group leaders who run the groups and arrange activities, such as outings, or meals out. It includes the people who help with teas, and those who book you in at the door. It includes those who clear away after a meeting in the hall and help to stack the tables and chairs. It all takes time and effort. I am grateful to those Members who can be relied upon and help to make Marple Bridge and Mellor u3a the great organisation it is - and I am especially looking forward to working alongside all our dedicated volunteers.

Your committee is making plans for OUR GRAND RE-OPENING. We will let you know the precise date when we will start meeting in person at St Paul's Church Hall. I don't want to give you a specific date just yet as things could change, as you well know. Suffice to say, we will have risk assessments coming out of our ears when planning coming out of lockdown! This is particularly relevant if you are a Group Leader planning to re-start your group activity, as we must all adhere to government Covid regulations and those of the National u3a who insure us.

I look forward to meeting you when our u3a is up and running when we can enjoy our activities as before. See you all soon, please keep safe and well.

Carol Rice, Chairman.

Blood Bikes Manchester Our Charity for this Year

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 Ulla Metha, 1, Hearthstone Close, Cheadle. SK8 2NW

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



Coming out of Covid19 Lockdown

It has been a fair old strain on everyone, being in isolation, not being able to be with family and friends, and not being able to give them a hug. I don't have to remind you about all the restrictions we've had to put up with but hopefully ... the end is in sight?

Although most of our u3a members will have had both vaccines by now, we are advised to carry on with "hands, face, space" and to keep letting fresh air in and get tested when needed.

To ensure our u3a operates safely, our Group Leaders will be conducting risk assessments relative to the activity they run for us. So, if you are a Group Leader and are planning to re-start your group, please ensure a copy is submitted to the Committee beforehand.

If you are planning to attend any u3a activity, whether it's in a group or meeting in the hall, going on an outing or for a meal, you should ensure you are personally safe to attend by asking yourself a few questions before setting off: have I got an unrelenting cough; a high temperature; a loss of taste or sense of smell or been in company with someone recently diagnosed with Covid19? If the answer is yes to any of those questions, then sadly we have to ask you not to attend as we must help to keep all our members safe.

Please will you bring with you and use hand sanitiser when attending any u3a activity. Also, the wearing of masks whilst moving around inside areas may have to be normal practice for some time.

As we move through each of the phases in the roadmap, we should all remember that Covid19 will remain a part of our lives for some time to come. We are going to have to keep living our lives differently to keep ourselves and others safe. Please don't shoot the messenger of this information, but I so wish we could shoot the Covid19 virus!

Carol Rice, Chairman

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

18th May	Holly Reynolds	Walking back to Happiness (50's and 60's songs)
15th June	Paula Rabone.	"The History of Minshull Street Crown Court"
20th July	Daphne Sumble.	" Singing on the high seas"

Mellor Country House

A few years ago our U3A raised some money for Mellor Country House. Some members also visited the House for a guided tour.

Last year was not easy for them as their charity events, including their popular plant sale, had to be cancelled due to the Covid pandemic. They are now in the process of organising their Annual Plant Sale for 2021. This will be on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd May from 10am – 4pm each day.



Further information can be found on their website www.mellorcountryhouse.co.uk

Chat and Cuppa Group



Our "Chat and Cuppa Group" has proved to be a great success. Our Zoom meetings have taken place on the 4th Tuesday of each month at which we have discussed various subjects. We have a specific topic for each meeting when members can share interesting, serious or humorous experiences relating to the theme.

Not only are we now looking forward to meeting up in person to continue the "Chat and Cuppa Group" but I am also hoping to continue the zoom method of this meeting and so we could perhaps continue to do both.

Shirley Hammond

Strolling Group

For many months we've had virtual strolls on zoom where we've been able to share strolls we've experienced on our own or with our partners. We've constantly bemoaned the fact that the weather has been perfect but we've not been able to share it with the group in reality.

At last the day came on the first Tuesday in May when we were allowed to stroll, socially distanced, in groups of 6. I was devastated when it looked as though it was going to rain! I couldn't believe our luck when it stayed dry. The weather might have been cold but the social bonding was certainly warm and happy. What a pleasant morning with a really positive response from everybody there.

We look forward to the next stroll on the first Tuesday in June.

Shirley Hammond

Outings Group

Hope everyone is now vaccinated and feels able / wish to venture out further afield when we are allowed to do so at the end of last phase of current lockdown on the 21st of June

Isle of Wight Trip

Regarding the proposed trip to Isle of Wight in July, we are unable to proceed as the cost is going to be prohibitive for many members (for example a single supplement of £155 per person is payable). Also the hotel has no lift which may prove unsuitable for those with a limited mobility amongst us.

However, I have requested the travel company to look at travel in September when single supplements are not charged and to select an hotel which has a lift and more amenities. I will keep you posted with the progress. My sincere apologies for those who may have planned this year's holiday with this trip in mind.

Hazel Bhatt

Family History Group

When I started researching my family history I had some idea of being able to produce a family tree going back in time as far as I could. As time went on, however, I realised that there is a lot to be discovered in addition to a list of names and dates. The internet provides all sorts of information.

I discovered that an ancestor in a Somerset village contributed to a church fund for the relief of slaves on the Barbary coast. I was able to find the contract that a nineteenth century ancestor in Norfolk made with the landowner in order to lease a large arable farm. A poll book in the 1790's showed who another ancestor voted for in elections of the 1790's. Inevitably there is also a downside. Most families will be saddened by the number of children who died in infancy. A look at the admission books of workhouses reveals how common it was for the old or unemployed to spend time, or indeed to die, at the expense of the parish because of their abject penury.

Another forebear of mine was a carrier, transporting goods from a railway station in London on a horse and cart - one of the most common jobs for working people in late nineteenth century cities and towns. In short, family history has provided me with a range of social history distinct from the kings and queens and prime ministers that most of us learned about in school and, I would argue, much more interesting.

John Glennon

Family History Continued

Our interest in our family history was stimulated when our youngest son who lives in Singapore made John a book about several of his ancestors and included a family tree.

Then our eldest grandson took up the challenge set to students in year 8 at secondary school in 2014 to produce a project on either family members or a well-known personality who served in WW1. He researched five distant cousins.

These sources contained some fascinating information including an illustrated table of the monarchs during which each of John's direct grandfathers on the male side were born, going right back to his 11xGreat Grandfather born in 1460 in the reign of Henry VI.

One of the distant cousins who served in WW1 had his nose blown off early on in the war. He was treated as a Guinea pig by Sir Michael Gillies, the father of British plastic surgery, at a specialist hospital for those with facial wounds. Initially skin was grafted onto his forehead which was then grown to form a new nose and finally grafted into place to replace his old nose. This was the first time this method of replacing a lost nose had been used and proved to be very successful. This cousin lived to serve in the Second World War but had to be sent home from a placement in the desert as his new nose didn't have any hairs to block sand.

The other four cousins were brothers, sons of a brewery owner in Worcester. The eldest of these, a Captain in The Royal Navy, was the only one to survive the war. The second son, a member of the 9th Gurkha Regiment, was drowned along with his wife and one year old daughter. They were travelling back to India on the SS Persia in 1915 the first civilian ship to be sunk by a German U-boat in the Mediterranean. His baby son should have been travelling with them but had a chest infection so was left in England with his Nanny. The third son was killed at Ypres in 1917 and the fourth son at the Battle of Aisne in 1914.



Learning all this prompted me to try to find out more about closer relatives which has proved to be totally absorbing and produced some fascinating facts which tied up many of the details we already knew.

It also produced some surprises one of which came from a photo which we came across on line. This was of John's Great Great Grandfather, Edward Layton, looking very smart in knee britches and stockings, a tail coat, waistcoat and a neck frill and carrying a sword. On the back of the photo it said he was an undersheriff of London and as such had to attend all public hangings!

On John's mothers side his Great Grandfather, James Howard, was appointed head of the Yorkshire Institute for the Deaf and Dumb and his wife became Matron. He introduced many innovations to the school including teaching the deaf to speak.



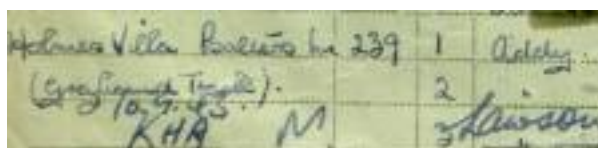
My family although very interesting to me has not produced as many fascinating ancestors.

John & Heather Spreckley

The Pitfalls of online genealogy

Professional genealogists stress the importance of data verification by obtaining at least three independent sources where possible to validate the accuracy of any facts relating to family history. Our family history group has enjoyed the benefits of visiting professional genealogists from Find My Past and Ian and Sharon Hartas from UKGDL. Many potential sources of errors were highlighted and one of the many problems encountered is the reliability of data recording from census enumerators and subsequent transcription of poor handwriting from original records.

The 1939 register from Find My Past shows my grandfather's business premises as



This entry has unfortunately been transcribed as



My grandfather's greyhound racetrack business now appears as a Greyliquid in the rest of FMP records. An additional error has arisen from a newspaper report about events at the track claiming that my grandfather was a greyhound breeder (not correct) and was racing dogs such as the famous Mick the Miller. This dog was in fact bred in Ireland where a relative of my grandfather worked. Other errors in online information have been perpetuated by our family tree having been posted on Ancestry by another family member which contains erroneous information relating to one of the wives of a distant grandfather. This has resulted in personal contacts from non related family members who have assumed the Ancestry was correct in showing a family link.

A more satisfactory outcome from tracing records occurred some time after my parents wedding. Following the ceremony and subsequent scrutiny of the photographs by the guests led to a family dispute as whether a certain guest belonged to the bride or groom's family, both sides claiming ownership. This was resolved when my sister began her interest in the family records tracing back over the previous several generations and identified a link to confirm that our parents were not only husband and wife but were also distant cousins

Tony Addy

Crossword Compiled by Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A Crossword Group

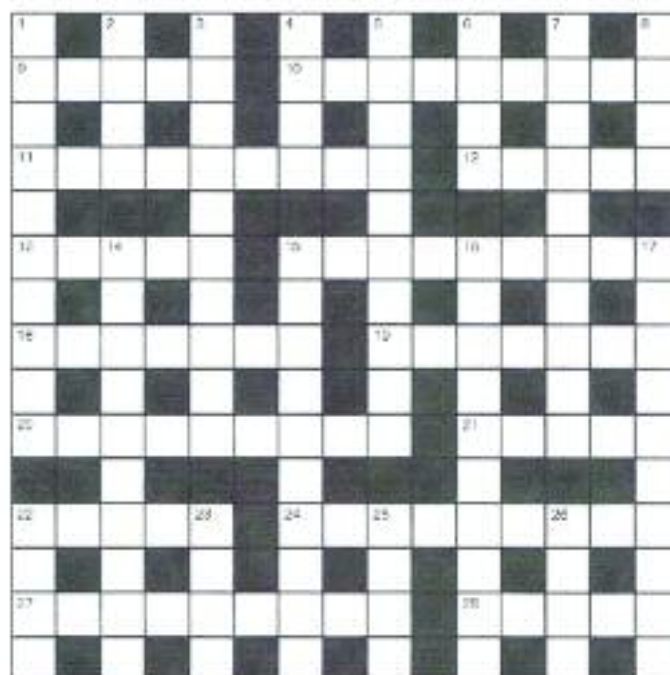
compiled jointly by U3A Crossword Group

Clues across

9. It is obvious when you see a cross on the island. (5)
10. I entangle, dancing with lack of grace. (9)
11. Bury a fibber I hear, among other things. (5,4)
12. Ridicule shift rosta. (5)
13. Diets mess up periodic movements. (5)
15. Guru's oral deviation goes on and on. (9)
18. Meets the expense of new roads around loud French capital. (7)
19. Violent attack by a sailor reportedly. (7)
20. Uncle sore about fenced area. (9)
21. Student follows excited pair before May. (5)
22. Initial watering and warmth needed for cereal crop. (5)
24. Meeting place had space for table. (9)
27. Sold sports education. (9)
28. Net originally only woven synthetic material. (5)

Clues down

1. Game artist played with law officer. (10)
2. Start digging in rural trench to find mud. (4)
3. Showman finds imps are playing on Spanish river. (10)
4. Do away with Highland dress – no time left. (4)
5. I peer at art in error, return to original country. (10)
6. A long time in very early childhood. (4)
7. Could be librarian with list of things on the last war. (10)



Clues down cont.

8. Let it stand, some typists encounter this at the outset. (4)
14. Shortage maybe, but I feed cynic somehow. (10)
15. A tube rings madly in engine. (3,7)
16. Respectable at university with status. (10)
17. Colony will dispose of guys at last. (10)
22. Don starts when everyone arrives running. (4)
23. Follow behind! (4)
25. Helpers said otherwise. (4)
26. Socially, oddly enough, is greasy. (4)

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

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Seeking a new Speaker Organiser

Ulla Mehta is hanging up her speaker organiser shoes after doing the role since 2016, having taken over from Chris Brookes who was the previous speaker arranger.

The work of the speaker organiser is an important and integral role of any u3a. It involves organising an annual programme of speakers who provide talks which follow the philosophy of the u3a: Learn, Laugh, Live. In other words, the talks provide education, learning and entertainment.

Ulla has arranged speakers for us until December 2021 but the programme for 2022 needs to be started soon. She has fully enjoyed the role and has lots of hints and tips for anyone coming forward. Ulla will provide advice and training to any person willing to get involved.

Should you like any further information, Ulla will be very happy to talk to you. Please call her on telephone 07482 195138 or email speakerorganiser@mbmu3a.org.uk

Marple Bridge and Mellor u3a needs **YOU** as our next speaker organiser!

Carol Rice, Chairman

Crossword Solution
Across 9. Axiom 10. Inlegant 11. Inter Alia 12. Roast
13. Tides 15. Garrulous 18. Affords 19. Assault
20. Enclosure 21. April 22. Wheat 24. Boardroom
27. Auctioned 28. Nylon
Down 1. Magistrate 2. Dirt 3. Impresario 4. Kill
5. Repatriate 6. Year 7. Cataloguer 8. Stet 14. deficiency
15. Gas turbine 16. Upstanding 17. Settlement 22. Wear
23. Tail 25. Aids 26. Oily

This Newsletter appears bi-monthly. The next edition will be published July 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 30th June 2021