

## July 2021 Newsletter

### Notices & News Items

#### *Future Meetings*

We were hoping to recommence our meetings at St Paul's Church Hall in August with a coffee morning but unfortunately circumstances due to COVID concerns for both our membership and the use of the hall preclude us from doing this at the moment. The committee have decided that in the interests of the health and safety of our members we will defer this large group reopening until later in the year when things are more settled. We will keep you informed as soon as any definite decisions have been made.

Many of the groups are now starting again in a variety of ways and it could be useful for you to check with your group organiser as to what is happening to any groups with which you're involved.

#### *Marple Bridge & Mellor u3a Zoom Meetings*

All our meetings will be on ZOOM for the time being and will commence at 10am

20th July	Daphne Sumble.	"Singing on the high seas"
17 August	Chrissie Gibson	"About Samaritans" Her work with the Samaritans
21 September	Alison Mee Wildlife and Travel Photographer	"Living the African Dream" Conservation and community work

#### *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

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



## Outings Group

First of all, apologies for those members (10 in numbers ) who were looking forward to visit the Isle of Wight, which isn't going to take place again unfortunately.

However as the current restrictions due to the pandemic are about to be relaxed on the 19th of July, I am seeking members opinions and so I have devised a short questionnaire regarding restarting the outings.

Please reply online ( email address ..outings@mbmu3a.org.uk ) or postal reply to

15, Stuart Avenue, Marple. SK66JX.

Many thanks in anticipation of your reply.

### Members opinions on Restarting Outings

1. Would you be interested in joining the outings during the remaining  
3 months of this year from September? Yes / No
2. Would you be happy to share the transport ie travel on the coach? Yes / No
3. The following are the possible trips in 2021 to consider
  - a) The National Trust property .....Rufford Old Hall. Yes / No
  - b) Ness Botanic Gardens Yes / No
  - c) Blackpool lights. Yes / No
4. Suggestions for 2021 & 2022 outings programme. ....

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..... Hazel Bhatt

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### Marple Bridge and Mellor u3a – We need you!

Groups will soon be meeting again in the normal way. Some outdoor groups have already started, we would like to put out an appeal to all members for ideas for new groups. Have you got a skill or hobby that you would like to share? Is there a group you would like to see on our list? Let us know, we can help you set up the new group and also help advertise the group and appeal for members to join the group.

One thing that hasn't changed this year is our request for new committee members. Normally, in an AGM when this request is made everyone decides they have to look at their shoes, anything to avoid making eye contact with the Chair!

Before you quickly skip to the next paragraph we would ask you to just take a minute and bear with us. Firstly, being on the committee isn't as onerous as you might think.

The committee runs Marple Bridge and Mellor u3a, it is important, but nobody is asking you to join the United Nations or Parliament. You don't need any special qualifications, only a willingness to help and to have a sense of humour! You can sit in on a couple of committee meetings, under no obligation, to see if you like it. If we all sit around expecting somebody else to do it, then you know what will happen! So, come on, give it a go. The committee needs you!

Speaker Meetings. We have had a number of interesting speakers in recent months which all have been booked by Ulla Mehta, our Speaker Organiser. Ulla has undertaken this role for a number of years now and wants to move on. It is not an onerous role and Ulla will fully train anybody taking over the role.

Please contact a member of the committee if you are interested in helping to serve on your committee with a succession plan for a committee with a full compliment of roles. You will be made very welcome.

## Around the Groups

### Strolling Group



It was perfect weather for a healthy, relaxing stroll along the Goyt River to the canal. A group of strollers enjoyed a morning, talking and laughing in each other's company. It's these little things that we have missed over the last months. At last we are able to spend time with others again providing we continue to do our personal risk assessments and ensure reasonable social distancing. We now have a programme of strolls set up for the next few months on the first Tuesday of each month. I have included a brief outline below but more details are available in the Strolling Group section of the MBMu3a website along with our risk assessment details.

Any member who would like to be added to

the Strolling Group contact list please send me your details.  
Shirley Hammond [membershipsecretary@mbmu3a.org.uk](mailto:membershipsecretary@mbmu3a.org.uk)

August 3rd Meet at La Dolce Vita Restaurant, Marple to leave at 10.30am. Colin and Carol Burkitt  
07434 284 666

Stroll across to the Peak Forest Canal via Church Lane to top lock. Follow the canal down to lock 7 and return to Marple via Ley Hey Road and the Memorial Park. Approximately 2 miles.

September 7th Meet at Romiley Swimming Pool, to leave at 10.30am. David Hammond. 07411 352 801  
Stroll through the countryside towards Woodley completing a circular stroll back to the car park.  
Approximately 2 miles.

October 5th Meet outside the Maple Tree Chinese in the centre of Marple Bridge. Geoff and Joan Fogg  
0161 430 3517  
Stroll through Marple Bridge and along Low Lea Road to the Roman Lakes returning along the same route.  
Approximately 2 miles.

*Shirley Hammond*

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### French Group

Life has been very difficult both in France and England during this last year. The legislation has been different in both countries but equally as strict. One main difference is that France likes its paperwork and the French have had to complete lots of requests to allow permission for their various activities.

La vie a été très difficile tant en France qu'en Angleterre au cours de cette dernière année. La législation a été différente dans les deux pays mais tout aussi stricte. Une différence principale est que la France aime sa paperasse et les français ont dû en remplir de nombreuses demandes pour autoriser leurs différentes activités.

Our French group has continued to meet on zoom twice a month throughout the different lockdowns. We have conversed in French on a wide variety of different subjects and kept our brain cells active, thinking and talking in French. We are looking forward, hopefully in the near future, to be able to meet up in person again.



*Shirley Hammond*

## Badminton Group



The Badminton group will hopefully be restarting in Sept 2021 if the guidelines set out by the Government allow us to do so. The likelihood of a further delay to the easing of restrictions seems very likely at the moment and so this would mean that it would be unlikely that we could reopen before the end of July anyway. The summer months always see a drop in attendance, and as we are a small group, it would probably mean that it would not be viable to open until later; with July and August not necessarily well attended, September would seem to be a better option.

As with all groups, it will be necessary to complete a risk assessment, which everyone will need to agree to and we will also be required to accept any rules laid down by the venue that we attend.

Just prior to The Lockdown last year we had been informed that Dialstone centre which we had been using, would no longer be available to us and we were advised to transfer to the new sports centre at Brinnington. We were in the process of negotiating with the Manager at the centre, the week before Lockdown happened and so things are still in the air regarding our situation there. This will also need to be confirmed before we reopen.

Let's hope that things will gradually ease and we can think about taking to the courts again soon.

*Clare Gwilym*

## Dining Group



At last restaurants are beginning to open and we are planning to start booking some so that we can once more share tasty food and good company.

Our first venture will be for just a few of us to trial getting back to some sort of normal life, possibly sometime in September.

We then plan to have a programme of visits arranged in restaurants from October. Specifically restaurants where we feel there will be plenty of room for us to make sure we can abide by the social distancing rules

Once we have reservations confirmed we will send out information to members so that booking can commence. Hopefully our General Meetings will be able to recommence and allow us to advertise and take booking as we previously did.

*Pat Walker/Shirley Hammond*

## Chat and Cuppa Group



I was approached during our various lockdowns to set up a zoom group where members could meet up once a month for a chat and a cuppa. During these zoom meetings we have talked about a wide variety of things from activities and hobbies that we have revisited during the lockdowns to books we have read and enjoyed.

At the moment we are still meeting up on the 4th Tuesday of the month through zoom but we are contemplating meeting up in reality and actually getting together over a drink and a biscuit or cake. This will give us the chance to more easily discuss some different topics and bring an item to share with one another. Anyone wishing to be added to my contact list please send me your details.

*Shirley Hammond*

[membershipsecretary@mbmu3a.org.uk](mailto:membershipsecretary@mbmu3a.org.uk) 0161 366 8223

## Reading Group 2

We had our first meeting today since the beginning of the pandemic. Four members met inside – socially distanced. Only four of us were able to attend. Some of the group were on holiday or visiting family they hadn't seen for so long, Some because of illness and one dear lady who died just a year ago and who will be sadly missed.

During lockdowns, frequent emails from the library service kept us up to date with new books to read and some older published books we could borrow from Borrowbox. Also, some of us made use of our Kindles, so nobody had been bereft of reading material,

The first book we got to read as a group was *The Diary of an ordinary Schoolgirl* by Margaret Forster with a short biography of her family and life by her husband – Hunter Davies,

The book for the summer is *The Mill on the Floss* by George Eliot and we are meeting again on Tuesday, 7th September at 2pm and would love to invite new members. Please think of joining us, phone 0161 427 5691 for the venue

*Jean Howells*

## Reading Group 3

We have just started to meet again in person in each other's gardens as opposed to zoom. Thus we have no overheads we simply make a contribution to the host to cover the cost of coffee and biscuits.

We currently have 2 vacancies if anyone would like to join us. We always meet once a month to discuss the book we have read, in someone's house or garden, but there is no pressure to volunteer to host, it is entirely up to the individual member and we generally have more volunteers than we need. We are a very friendly, easy going group and we always make new members welcome.

*Elaine Owen*

## Poetry Group

For many years we met, once a month, in each other's houses, to read poetry. We moved to Marple Library, for less than a year, when the pandemic began, and we could then no longer meet together.

We were all isolated during the first lockdown and quickly found that we missed the monthly session and the incentive to find poems on a monthly theme, to share with others. Each meeting had been a chance to hear both familiar poems and less well-known poetry, sometimes by living poets and occasionally in translation.

Those members that had access to a computer suggested that we could still exchange poems and discuss them via email. Other members were able to copy poems and deliver them to a member with a computer, for sending onward to others, who then sent their own choice back, via the postal system. This solution was obviously less sociable and not all members took part. Nevertheless, for some it enabled them to keep in touch and to have the incentive to keep reading and discovering new material.

As the rules (and the weather!) allowed, we were able to hold a few memorable meetings in gardens this summer, socially distanced. It was lovely to be able to meet each other again and helped us through the lengthy pandemic. We are still not back in the library but hoping that will be possible fairly soon.

*Chris Burgess*



## Tales from during Lockdown

### A Choir of Birds

The sirens have stopped wailing  
across the valley. The sky  
untraced by contrails.  
You try hard to remember  
what this stillness feels like.  
A wren, a thrush and robin flit  
into the garden and stay  
to peck at worms and gather moss.

So much less pollution –  
it seems a different world.  
Such a feel of déjà vu whispering  
through the bushes – stay here –  
reject the perils of the world outside.  
Until you suddenly remember,  
this all enveloping warmth  
is like your childhood after war.

Frances Sackett 9/4/20

Published in the High Windows Winter Journal 2020

We were asking for items for the Newsletter that members had done during Lockdown, Frances is the Leader of the Poetry Group and wrote this poem during lockdown

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

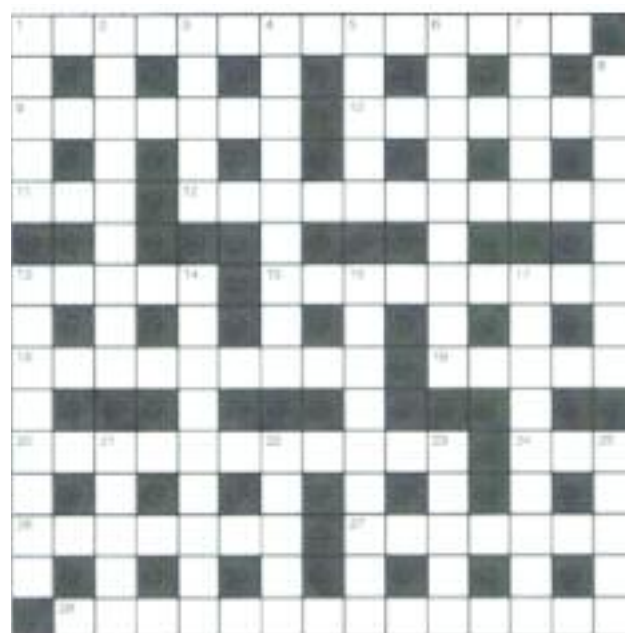
*compiled jointly by U3A Crossword Group*

### Clues across

1. Lawn banker is busy on the course. (4,10)
9. Occupation held in Piccadilly perhaps. (7)
10. Dog has life that is long. (7)
11. Fine linen clothing priest. (3)
12. Jet with core engineered to position safety device. (7,4)
13. Locations obscure ties South. (5)
15. Yes, tramps work for espionage boss. (9)
18. European Commission takes middle position—very odd! (9)
19. Fabric protested! (5)
20. At the end of the day rats revealed by early light. (7,4)
24. Start a lazy plod to mountain. (3)
26. Mo Farah perhaps permitted to enter rearranged heat. (7)
27. Fewer than ten followed sign to imitate jungle animal. (7)
28. St Brian catered carelessly for the absentminded. (7-7)

### Clues down

1. Start taking a short trip East for a sample of flavour. (5)
2. Forged article is accepted as genuine. (9)
3. A vile organisation is vigorous. (5)
4. Edward maybe, an academic who changes vote from  
for to against. (9)
5. Launch unsafe private ship expecting traumatic  
capsize. (5)
6. Upset beakers at interludes from work. (3,6)
7. Trusting part of church accepts me as subject. (5)



### Clues down cont.

8. Pressing tool for which I and Ronald go after  
apartment. (4,4)
- 13 The last leek soup was very thin. (8)
14. Met tennis player with passion. (9)
16. Cathy organised group to form a boating association. (5,4)
17. Stupid idiot had share in chemical process. (9)
21. Sweetheart, not totally dense, and has integrity. (5)
22. German beer damaged bird. (5)
23. Wine produced from foremost Italian oranges in  
exotic jar. (5)
25. Demand for soft metal. (5)

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

## CONTACTS

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National Website: [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

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52 Lant Street,  
London, SE1 1RB  
020 8466 6139

## Announcements

It is with regret that we record the death of David Leigh. David was member of our u3a for many years and reportedly he very much enjoyed his time as a member

## Thank you . . .

. . . to all the groups who have sent articles to be published in this Newsletter

It is good to know about our Groups and what they have been doing in the past few months

*Malcolm Moss*

**Crossword Solution**  
Across 1. Turf Accountant 9. Station 10. Spaniel 11. Eli  
12. Ejector Seat 13. Sites 15. Spy-master 18. Eccentric  
19. Satin 20. Evening Star 24. Alp 26. Athlete 27. Leonine  
28. Scatter-brained  
Down 1. Taste 2. Realistic 3. Alive 4. Confessor 5. Upset  
6 Tea-breaks 7. Naïve 8. Flatiron 13. Skeletal 14. Sentiment  
16. Yacht Club 17. Titration 21. Ethic 22. Grebe 23. Rioja  
25. Plead

This Newsletter appears bi-monthly. The next edition will be published September 2021

Please send items for publication by email

to [Malcolm Moss](mailto: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.mbm3a.org.uk](http://www.mbm3a.org.uk)

***All contributions for the next edition of the Newsletter  
should be received no later than Wed 1st Sept 2021***