

November 2021 Newsletter

At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them

Kath Leigh, our vice chairman, will be laying the wreath on behalf of Marple Bridge and Mellor u3a at the cenotaph, at St Paul's Church Compstall, on Sunday November 14th at 10.50am. It would be appreciated if some of you could join her on this occasion.



Chairman's Chit Chat...

Times are changing! I am so happy that we are now able to reopen so many things. The committee have discussed the various possibilities for us to move forward and have prepared risk assessments for the different activities. We still have to be careful making sure that we are protecting each other. I'm aware that some of you are still very apprehensive about any indoor meetings but hopefully if things continue to improve and we've all had our booster vaccinations then those members will feel more confident in re-joining future activities.

Zoom has been brilliant and has allowed us to continue the General Meeting and various other groups but it does have its limitations, especially with the larger groups. Many smaller groups are still using zoom and some have begun to meet in person again. Please check with your group co-ordinator to check what your groups are doing.

Our first large venture was to hold a coffee morning in September. I was hopeful that a few of you would join us and enjoy our first social meeting. We set the hall out with tables keeping the recommended distance between them. I was really pleased when 75 members attended. There was a lovely atmosphere of friendliness and happiness as members were able to meet up again after so long apart. It was an extremely successful morning.



After this enjoyable morning the committee decided it was feasible to arrange the October General Meeting in St Paul's Church Hall. We had a few hurdles to get over but we managed to get everything arranged along with the necessary risk assessments and member's protection. The entrance was monitored and the number of chairs was limited and well-spaced out. Members were so pleased to be able to meet up with old friends again and the atmosphere was buzzing. We had lots of positive comments.

The committee now feel happy to continue organising the General Meetings in the Church Hall, unless things change and the Government alter their advice. The November meeting has a speaker as normal, "From Quarry Bank Mill to Quarry Bank". We are now trying to arrange something special for the Christmas meeting on the second Tuesday in December, 14th. This will be along the lines of the coffee morning with a few extra celebrations. You will not need to buy tickets but we may need to charge more than the usual £1 entrance fee to cover the costs. Once the committee has arranged further details I will then forward you that information.

Along with the support of the committee I'm now eager to carefully and cautiously plan the future of all the members of Marple Bridge and Mellor u3a and ensure we all move ahead together in a positive way.

Shirley Hammond

All Good Wishes for Christmas



Notices & News Items

Marple Bridge & Mellor u3a Meetings

16th November	Donna Johnstone	"From Quarry Bank Mill to Quarry Bank"
14th December	Christmas Coffee Morning – Coffee – Mulled Wine – Mince Pies	
18th January	Maureen Hawksworth	"Our School in Nepal"

Marple Bridge & Mellor u3a – Renewal of Membership 2022

Membership renewal is due on **1st January 2022** and the renewal form is attached to this Newsletter, and the fee remains at **£10.00** for the year. It would be very much appreciated if you could renew your membership **NOW** and avoid the Christmas rush.

We are asking all members to please pay by cheque (see the renewal form for details) and we would welcome your co-operation. If you have any problems with this please contact Assistant Membership Secretary (assistantmembershipsecretary@mbmu3a.org.uk)

If you require the Newsletter to be sent to you by post please attach 6 stamped addressed envelopes, size A5 (230mm x 160mm)

News about the Badminton Group

The badminton group restarted for the first time since the Pandemic, on Thursday 23rd. September 2021. We met at our new venue, the sports hall at Brinnington Leisure Centre, where the facilities are a great improvement on our former location at Dialstone Centre.



Our current membership is stable at 10 members, but we are always looking for new members who might be interested.

We now meet at 2pm. and play for an hour until 3pm. As we have to book and pay for the courts in advance, we have had to put the price up to £2 a week for each member, to cover the costs.

For further enquiries, please contact the group leader Clare Gwilym on 0161 494 2246 if you are interested in joining us.(NB You need to be a member of Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A to join, or one of our Pennine Link U3As ie. Romiley, Marple or New Mills –subject to places being available.) You would need to bring your own racquet and wear appropriate sports shoes and clothing. (Shuttlecocks are provided by the club.) Brinnington has hand sanitisers freely available and all visitors are advised to wear masks when moving through shared areas.

It is lovely to be playing again and everyone thoroughly enjoyed our first session back on court!

Clare Gilwym

Strolling Group

Two recent strolls

What a difference a month makes! It doesn't matter whatever the weather we still meet as planned and if it's

raining we can still enjoy some chat over a cup of coffee.



Tuesday November 2nd Shirley Hammond. 07411 352 801

Meet at La Dolce Vita Restaurant, Marple to leave at 10.30am.

Stroll from the restaurant along Stockport Road to the Peak Forest Canal. Then follow the Peak Forest Canal up towards the access for Hawk Green Road. We will then cut across to

the Macclesfield Canal and return towards Marple along the canal towpath eventually re-joining the Peak Forest Canal to stroll back toward the town centre. Approximately 2 miles.

Tuesday December 7th Shirley Hammond. 07411 352 801

Meet outside Lymefield Garden Centre, Broadbottom, Hyde, SK14 6AG at 9.30am. to stroll at 9.45am.

Meander along a level paved path, through the ruins of the old mills. Learn some of the history of the development. This is only a short stroll.

Join us for a Christmas celebration in the cafe for a snack at 11.00am. You will need to book in advance as this café is extremely popular and gets booked up. Lymefield Café tel. 01457 76 4686

Tuesday January 4th David Hammond . 07411 352 801

Meet in Dobbies Car Park to leave at 10.30am.

We will stroll along the Alan Newton Way towards Bredbury Hall and return along the same route.

In case the weather is against us I've chosen a well paved path for our stroll. If it is raining or snowing we can easily go into Dobbies for some warm refreshments or just call in after strolling

Shirley Hammond membershipsecretary@mbmu3a.org.uk

Dining Group

At last the dining group are meeting again. We spent an enjoyable evening at the Pack Horse where we could enjoy excellent food whilst meeting up and chatting with old friends. We were certainly well looked after by the staff. A very successful evening.

Pat Walker



Pat Walker and Shirley Hammond have arranged meals for the Dining Group for the next few months.

We would like to invite members of MB&M U3A to now book for these meals.

As usual bookings will be taken on a first come basis.

1st December meal this year is at the OAKLANDS HALL HYDE. 3 course meal including Tea or Coffee plus Mince pies £27.50 Gratuities & Personal Drinks are Extra

£10 Cash Deposit required for this meal at time of booking.

Please join us for Afternoon Tea at the Plaza Stockport on 26th January 2022 at 2.30pm. The cost is £12.50.

Bookings will be taken at the November Meeting.

We require a non-refundable £5 per person deposit to confirm your booking. This can either be in person in cash or a by cheque payable to A S Hammond. You will also need to let Pat have your choice from the menu.

Pat Walker/Shirley Hammond

Gardening Group – RHS Bridgewater

On Wednesday 8th September 24 of the MBM U3A members went to the new RHS Bridgewater Gardens. The trip was organised by the Gardening Group originally for 2019, 2020 and finally 2021. Empty coach places allowed other U3A members to go on the trip.



We arrived by 10.20 after an easy short journey. The weather was beautiful, too hot for some people.

The entrance is impressive with large wooden beams and plenty of glass. Passing through the entrance we came out into the Welcome Garden where there were clipped Beech trees, Yew Domes, long Grasses and herbaceous perennials.



From there we walked into the 'Walled Garden' which is divided by good paths into separate gardens. The Kitchen Garden had ripe pumpkins, leeks, and onions whilst the Fruit garden had raspberries, blueberries, apples and pears. Colour was dramatic in the Jewel, Bee and Butterfly gardens with vivid reds, oranges, yellows and purple from the Rudbeckia, Asters, Lobelia, Helianthus and Salvia, The grasses, of which there were many varieties, were over 5ft tall, some were even over 6ft. Sedums, Nerines and Kniphofia showed late Autumn colour.

Towards the Ellesmere Lake, now restored was the foundation of the Japanese Garden with a typical Red Arched Bridge over a stream where some planting had been done including Mecanopsis. Help in designing had been given by the Manchester Japanese people.

In the woodlands plenty of seats and a place to buy drinks and snacks could be found. This was enjoyed by those who had taken picnics. Those who chose to buy lunch could sit in the shade and watch birds on the Moon Bridge water.



A successful day was had by all and many bought plants to take home.

Amongst the group it was decided that a visit next year in a different month would be a good idea.

Margaret Hogg

Outings Group

January – Royal Exchange Theatre – Bookings being taken at the November general meeting.

A devilish offering from award-winning writer David Greig, THE STRANGE UNDOING OF PRUDENCIA HART is a wild musical play that sees Scottish folk songs collide with decadent karaoke under the direction of Debbie Hannan. Oozing with wit, passion, seduction and sambucas, this show is a riotous mix of rhyming couplets, live music and a glimpse of the underworld

Date; Wednesday the 12th of January at 2:30 pm.

Cost; £35 for row D at the stage level or £30 for the E row at the stage level.

Please note this event may be affected by the Covid situation at the time.

Proposed future outings

February	Manchester Art Gallery.	March	John Rylands Library.
April	Rufford Old Hall.	May	Renishall Hall.
June	Cheethams School of Music	July	The Piece Hall and Shibden Hall, Halifax
August	Gawthorpe Hall	September	Portmeirion

Please note that if you paid a deposit for the previously planned trips to Rufford Old Hall and Renishaw Hall the cheques have not been cashed and can be returned on request at the general meeting. We will re-open bookings for these two trips in the New Year.

Finnish Language & Culture

This is a new group for those with little or no knowledge of Finnish and an opportunity to learn it, starting from the basics. I will teach you this fascinating language, which is unrelated to most European languages.

Finland is an enigmatic country – a blend of east and west, the land of 188,000 lakes, the midnight sun, the northern lights and the sauna. While this is primarily a language class, over time we will learn more about the culture of this Nordic land, where I spent several years.



I am pleased to say that there has been sufficient interest in this group for it to go ahead. The start date is yet to be decided, but this will be early in the New Year. The group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. There are still a few places left, and the choice of venue will depend on how much further interest there is before this group starts to meet.

If you are interested in joining the group or you have any questions, please don't hesitate to e-mail Neil at kuvakirja@hotmail.co.uk

Neil – New Mills u3a

Crossword Compiled by Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A Crossword Group

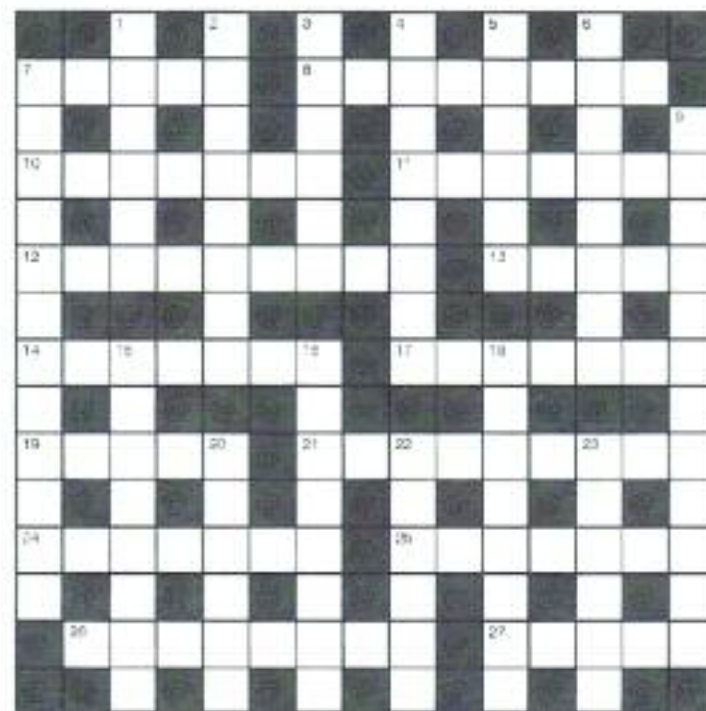
compiled jointly by U3A Crossword Group

Clues across

7. E-fit held initially troubling robber. (5)
8. Stand in line in starting gate, waiting patiently. (8)
10. Employ head of union over stile I broke. (7)
11. Lawman upset, fresh fight kicking off. (7)
12. Refined invention – still died! (9)
13. Rotten nuisance conceals boredom. (5)
14. Broadcast Ulster's conclusions. (7)
17. Equal years for aristocrats. (7)
19. Not being honest, Heather accepts "yes". (5)
21. Administer said baton for sole punishment. (9)
24. Nervous, on a high and hard to move. (7)
25. Confident fool has rude outburst. (7)
26. Gee Nigel! You made a flimsy robe. (8)
27. Spinner too upset in rest 'n' relaxation. (5)

Clues down

1. Stays with little Violet while she takes exams. (6)
2. Executive not working with big chemical company as the French return. (8)
3. Turn informer with a high pitched cry. (6)
4. Made a hash of pud, seems in need of mixing properly. (6-2)
5. Respect held, forever earning admiration. (6)
6. I sign in with a fancy coat of arms. (8)
7. The short lower swarm means bad weather. (12)



Clues down cont.

9. I floored chef – possibly someone in an important position. (6-6)
15. Knocks down sweets. (8)
16. Malicious damage to shoe before getting old. (8)
18. Agent Ray has semis to build. (8)
20. Escort builds good igloo. (6)
22. Lead some naughty animals running everywhere dangerously trapped. (6)
23. Ventilate hospital department with speed. (6)

Sheila Stafford Group Co-ordinator

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Announcements

It is with regret that we record the deaths of two of our long standing members.

We send our condolences to David Colquit and family on the death of Kathleen and also to Jean Parker and family on the death of David

THE COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU !!!

Marple Bridge and Mellor u3a is a thriving organisation but it needs new members to join the committee.

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 what its like. If we all sit around expecting somebody else to do it, then you know what will happen!

For more information speak to any member of the existing committee listed opposite

**SO COME ON, GIVE IT A GO
THE COMMITTEE
NEEDS YOU !**

Crossword Solution
Across 7. Thief 8. Queuing 10. Utilise 11. Sheriff 12. Distilled
13. Ennu 14. Results 17. Peasage 19. Lying 21. Bastinado
24. Upright 25. Assured 26. Negligee 27. Rotor
Down
Visits 2. Official 3. Squal 4. Messed up 5. Reverse 6. Insignia
7. Thundercloud 9. Office-holder 15. Skittles 16. Sabotage
18. Emissary 20. Gigolo 22. Snared 23. aerate

This Newsletter appears bi-monthly. The next edition will be published January 2022

Please send items for publication by email

to 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 by 2nd January, at the Latest**