

July 2022 Newsletter

Celebrating
40th Anniversary of the National u3a

Open Meeting & Grand Charity Event

Tuesday 16th August

10am – 12 noon

St Paul's Church Hall, Compstall

**in aid of the
SAMARITANS**

£1.00 entrance (includes refreshments)

Raffle – Books – Jigsaws – Crafts
Plants – Homemade Produce
Fun Activities

Come along and bring your friends

Chairman's Chit Chat...

I can't believe we're half way through 2022! The year is flying by. At last we are free to take part in lots of activities, outings or just meeting up with friends etc. There is such a lot with which we can get involved, so much to catch up on after the last couple of years of lockdown. We still have to take care of ourselves and others but we have to grasp the net and start to enjoy life again. I personally feel Marple Bridge and Mellor u3a has such a lot to offer that it is difficult to join in everything that I'd like to join. I get pleasure seeing people chatting together and enjoying themselves in so many diverse situations.

Following this period of Covid and some inactivity of our groups etc, a few of our members have chosen not to re-join our u3a. Now we are trying to revitalise our groups and encourage more people to join us. We are constantly looking for new methods of publicising who we are and what we do. We were able to have a table at the celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee, held at Compstall Cricket Ground, where we talked to lots of people who'd never heard of the u3a. There has been a suggestion that we start a Facebook page, so if any of you could help with this it would be much appreciated. Any ideas of how or where we can publicise our u3a would be welcome. We would love you to pass your ideas to someone on the committee or send me an email with your suggestions. We would be pleased to hear them and also to receive any offers of help.

This year is the 40th Anniversary of the national u3a and during June we have had a few chances to celebrate and publicise it. We still have our celebration in August to look forward to. There are some photographs and articles about these events in this newsletter. Please encourage friends and non-members to come and join us in August and find out a little about us.

I am now getting desperate trying to encourage you, our members to take your part on the committee. In February quite a lot of the committee will come to the end of their term of office and will be standing down. They have worked very hard for you over the last few years, often beavering away behind the scenes for little or no thanks, helping to organise things. I feel it is extremely important to get some new blood on the committee to come up with new ideas and approaches. We are all "just" members but it does need a small group, a committee, to plan and organise things. Please, please don't rely on everyone else. Come forward. Come to a committee meeting and find out a little more about the role. Stand as a co-opted member. You don't need any particular talents just a willingness to get involved. We realise that total commitment is difficult. We all have holidays. I'm one of the worst for that! Either contact me or one of the present committee and come and join us. We are not a clique!

Our u3a is still thriving with over 300 members and with new people joining us every month. Let's get ourselves truly rejuvenated with lots more activity groups and other involvements. It's up to all of you to come up with ideas and suggestions of what we can set up and we can all work together to move forward and continue to be a truly active, sociable u3a.

Shirley Hammond



Notices & News Items

Marple Bridge & Mellor u3a Meetings

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| 19 July | Edwina Curry. | " Tales from the Corridors of Power" |
| 16 August | Charity Event | |
| 20 September | John Stirling | " From Toy Town to Buckingham Palace" |

The Queen's Jubilee Celebration

Crowds turned out to Compstall Cricket Ground to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee making it an ideal opportunity to advertise Marple Bridge and Mellor u3a. It was a really valuable day talking to people about what we have to offer. Some people didn't even come from our area but were going to look up on the internet for a u3a group near their home. We were able to chat with some present members. A few people who were already members, that I hadn't previously met, came and introduced themselves. They had joined to go to a specific group and didn't come to the General Meeting. It made it a really sociable occasion being able to talk to old friends and new. Hopefully we may get some new members joining our u3a after having chatted with us and taken some of our advertising leaflets to peruse.

A pleasant, enjoyable and worthwhile day arranged by Marple Bridge Community Group. We look forward to many more events where we can advertise the u3a.



Shirley Hammond

Stroll and Picnic



What superb weather for our members to enjoy the fresh air and celebrate 40 years of our National u3a. We explored the beautiful countryside around Mellor, an area we have tried to visit before but been hampered by inclement weather! The idea of our strolls is that they are easier than a longer walk but living on the edge of the Pennines does give us a challenge to find strolls on the flat! This stroll presented 1 or 2 more challenging bits but nothing really strenuous. We all turned down the possibility of a shorter route part way round.

We were rewarded by the constantly changing panoramic views of the surrounding countryside.

We went on to enjoy a sociable picnic where we could all relax and chat whilst eating our lunch. This made a lovely end to a really enjoyable morning.

We've also decided to carry on having picnics after our strolls, dependant on the weather!



Shirley Hammond

New Members Meeting

In June we held a meeting for members who had joined over the last few years. With the difficulties associated with the pandemic we have not been able to invite new members to find out a little about the principles of the u3a and specifically about MBMu3a. Some of the committee and some group leaders were able to meet with our newer members and chat with them. I was aware some actually enrolled with some of our groups at the meetings. Time ran away with us and we didn't have chance, as a group, to hear what our new members would like to see developing. Any of you with ideas please let us know what they are and we can work together getting them set up.

I was annoyed when I got home to realise I'd carried my camera with me and not taken a single photograph of the occasion. Sorry!

A thoroughly enjoyable morning. Thank you to all who attended.

Shirley Hammond

Have you made a Bucket List ?

One of the items on my bucket list I mentioned to my son whilst visiting him in Australia, I asked if he would accompany me in a hot air balloon. I found the details, phoned and was told no small children allowed, booked and date confirmed.



In the early hours we set off for the launch site. The balloon canopy was lying flat on the ground along with basket and gas cylinders. It was inflated until upright. Then we joined some more people and climbed into the basket, gradually soaring upwards and away. Flying overland we saw homesteads, fields, cattle. We flew over the tree tops rising gently.

We watched the sun rising, the air was fresh and clear, glad of warm jackets. Photographs were taken with a camera on the end of a pole. It had been an exhilarating trip. All too soon it was time to land, a very smooth one.

We all climbed out of the basket and were told to be very close and friendly because we had to roll the canopy up tightly to go onto the trailer. We followed the trailer, in cars which had followed the flight, to a restaurant, breakfast of chocolate cake and champagne was served and were given a certificate for our trip.

Would I do it again, definitely, YES.....

J.H.

Did you know ...

There are approx 2,500 species of moth in the UK but only 2 attack and will lay eggs in your favourite cashmere sweater?

On hatching the larvae will begin to devour any natural material you have stored in dark cupboards and wardrobes. Once infested they are so difficult to eradicate. Since the old fashioned mothballs are now banned lavender, camomile, cedar and carbolic soap bars are all suggested deterrents, along with freezing garments in a polythene bag for at least 72 hours or dry cleaning. Perhaps you know any alternative.

J.S.

*Please have your u3a Membership Card ready to show
at the desk when you book in at monthly meetings,
along with the £1 entrance fee*

The Great Reveille of the 40th Anniversary Quilt

A delightful day at the Whitworth Art Gallery where U3A Members from all parts of the country were gathered to celebrate the 'Great Reveille of the 40th Anniversary Quilt'.

We heard how the idea was born in 2019 pre Covid as a celebration of our motto Live, Laugh and Learn and the many obstacles lockdown brought.

40 panels were eventually chosen, some a joint effort from Craft Groups, others individual offerings, and the interesting stories behind the designs. Spontaneous applause broke out as the organisers unveiled the beautifully crafted quilt put together by Sylvia Grayson, who explained how she turned 40 winning blocks into the final work.

We were invited to admire the work but not too close !

After lunch break Ann French, Head of Collections and Conservator of Textiles at the Whitworth, explained how the finished item had to be frozen before displaying to remove any chance of infestation (something that had caused palpitations to the organisers!). Of course all was well and a necessary part of the intricate preservation of their magnificent collection.

It was followed by a lively talk on the Cottonopolis Project by Maggie Simms, the U3A North West representative, which had brought together work done by U3As in the area on all aspects Manchester's rich industrial heritage.

Finally we were offered a short tour called A Wander around the Whitworth with a Friend, who was a very knowledgeable guide. The Friends of the Gallery offer art holidays here and abroad, concerts, talks and evenings all to raise money for the Whitworth at a cost of £27 p.a. membership.

A most enjoyable and interesting day, especially for one of our duo who can barely sew a button on!

H.B. and J.S.

Strolling Group

Our "Strolling Group" is for members who would like a gentle stroll rather than a longer walk for which we have a "Walking Group". We arrange strolls of about 2 miles followed by a cuppa. These take place on the first Tuesday mornings in the month commencing at 10.30am, unless otherwise stated.

If you would like to be put on our contact list pass your details to

Geoff Fogg joanfogg@btinternet.com or Shirley Hammond david.hammond60@btinternet.com



Tuesday August 2nd Colin and Carol Burkitt

Meet in Dobbies car park, close to the entrance from the main road. We set off at 1030am on a circular walk of about a mile and a half around the Chadkirk estate.

Members seemed to enjoy the picnic after the last stroll so we thought we'd suggest another. We could meet at Cromwell Avenue Park which is just a 5 minutes drive from Dobbies. It's a small local park that's not busy and there is road parking on Marple Hall Drive. The wet option would be Dobbies Café.

Tuesday September 6th Sue Norcross

Meet in the Quarry car park at the top of Joel Lane, Werneth Low to set off at 10.30. If you drive past the Hare and Hounds to the top of the junction with Joel Lane, the car park is on the right.

A circular fairly flat walk around Werneth Low.

There is a picnic area across from the car park. Alternatively we could go for refreshments at the Hare and Hounds.

Tuesday October 4th Gail Dixon

Outings Group

Hope you are making the most of recent sunny weather and manage to get out and about.

On Thursday the 4th of August join us on to our visit to what is affectionately know as the Downton of the North an Elizabethan gem in Lancashire " The Gawthorpe Hall ". It is known for it's largest collections of portraits, textiles collections (lace ,embroidery & needlework) and their associations with Brontë sisters. This hall opens after 12o'clock so we will stop at Clitheroe in the morning for a short visit on their market day

On Thursday the 9th of September a visit to one of the main attractions of North Wales " Portmeirion " is planned and it is like visiting a little Italian resort in North Wales. So just pray for the weather to make it more realistic. Even if the weather doesn't play the ball there are indoors facilities to take shelter in as well as to entertain you.

Monday the 10th of October a trip to un- stately home " Calke Abbey " where the National Trust decided to preserve it as they found it including peeling wallpaper !!!

Join us if you can.

We would like to know your opinion/ suggestions for the next year outings. Email me with your thoughts on this. There will also be a chance to tell us in person at the next few general meetings.

Organisers.... Hazel Bhatt. Tel ...07808809795. email...outings@mbmu3a.org.uk

Dining Group

Thank you for joining us for our latest outings.

We are sorry but we have not organised an outing for July due to family commitments.

September

Now for something different in this month.

[How do you fancy an Afternoon Tea in the CLINK ?](#)

We have booked an Afternoon Tea at the restaurant in HMP Styal.

The cost is £22.50 the tip is included and we have to pay the full amount in advance. we will be asking for the full amount at the time of booking.

October

[The Spread Eagle Hatherlow Romiley.](#)

We have booked a Carvery and Dessert for £19.50 including tip

We will take bookings for both at the July meeting or after the meeting by phone or email.

Pat Walker/Shirley Hammond

Jigsaw Sales at Monthly Meetings

We are planning to have a table selling **2nd HAND JIGSAW PUZZLES** at our monthly meetings.

Please bring some along and buy another one.

Book Sales at the Monthly Meetings

Due to the limited amount of storage space and the fact that hard back books and non fiction books are not popular, it is requested that Paper Back Fiction books are mainly brought for the Stall.

Please do not bring any magazines as these also do not sell.

National u3a Events

u3a Science Network virtual meetings 2022

Meetings for this group will be held during the year with the meeting in July being designated as the Anniversary meeting. For further information visit u3a Science Network website.

u3a Week 17th – 25th September 2022

A time to challenge negative perceptions of older adults and bring together everyone in the community to learn about the contribution u3a makes to the quality of life for the third agers.

u3a at the Royal Institute October 31st 2022

A hybrid event at the Royal Institution in Albemarle Street London.

Lifts to General Meetings

It has been suggested that some of our members may need a lift to the General Meetings at Saint Paul's Church Hall. It may be a temporary need, for example due to an operation etc. or a regular need due to some difficulty in getting to the Hall.

If you would like to take advantage of this initiative and have a lift to the meeting or to offer anyone a lift, please contact Margery using her details below.

Margery Mount - Email margery.mount@icloud.com Telephone 0161 427 4260

Crossword Compiled by Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A Crossword Group

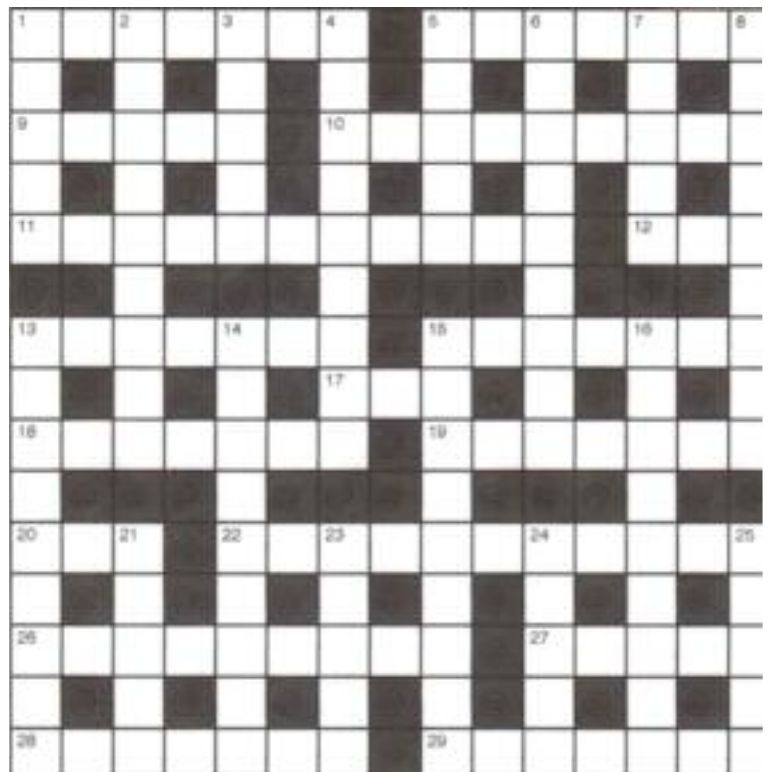
compiled jointly by U3A Crossword Group

Clues across

1. It purrs, providing support. (7)
5. Dance becomes endless crazy and sad. (8)
9. Angry, I give marks. (5)
10. New flier holds a note for person setting course. (10)
11. I locate germ dangerously arranged in a certain shape.(11)
12. Wither in various shades I hear. (3)
13. Posh beheaded skull leads to dangerous metal.(7)
15. Bride to be had money concerns with drug, but not new. (7)
17. Sick in Piccadilly station. (3)
18. Illegal trade in cars and vans for example. (7)
19. It's ineffective to be thrifty. (7)
20. Negative connection I hear. (3)
22. Transport that's not fine enough. (11)
26. Russian city left in danger after revolution. (9)
27. Get together in summer gear. (5)
28. Cleared somehow to get through customs. (7)
29. Do trams work for popularity. (7)

Clues down

1. Small ringing sound causes hurt. (5)
2. She is loved by one getting back at a Roman. (9)
3. Steward found in core event. (5)
4. Vessel had gold and fancy mica all around. (9)
5. A hundred and four in charge of local government. (5)
6. Canal geek cooks something for afternoon tea. (5,4)
7. Antiquated old hat. (5)
8. Witch with cup holder + "s" we hear. (9)
13. Peace keepers confused , but cleared up. (9)
14. Infection caused by fun with Liz and Ena. (9)
15. Our fields were contaminated with these compounds. (9)
16. Way of paying with colour like chessboard. (9)
21. For pick me up open tin of nuts in cupboard. (5)
23. Initially grief was shrouded in awful funeral song. (5)
24. Dance with spirit, to a degree. (5)
25. Five hundred measure fantasy. (5)



Sheila Stafford Group Co-ordinator

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Newsletter items

Thank you to the people who have submitted articles for inclusion in this month's Newsletter, can I have some more please !!!

Things that have happened to you in the past, funny or serious, items that you think could be of interest to our members.

You don't need to have your name published with the article if you do not wish to, but I do need to know who has sent the article.

Put your thinking caps on and lets try to make the Newsletter more interesting for all our readers.

Malcolm, Newsletter Editor

Crossword Solution
Across 1. Stirrup 5. Czardas 9. Treat 10. Navigator 11. Geometrical
12. Die 13. Uranium 15. Fiancée 17. Ill 18. Traffic 19. Useless
20. Not 22. Underground 26. Leningrad 27. Merge 28. Declare
29. Stardom
Down 1. Sting 2. Inamorata 3. Reeve 4. Panoramic 5. Civic
6. Angel cake 7. Dated 8. Sorceress 13. Untangled 14. Influenza
15. Fluorides 16. Chequered 21. Tonic 23. Dirge 24. Rumba
25. Dream

This Newsletter appears bi-monthly. The next edition will be published September 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.mbmu3a.org.uk

***All contributions for the next edition of the Newsletter
should be received by 31st August at the latest***