

## September 2022 Newsletter

### Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II - 1926 - 2022

We are deeply saddened at the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, on Thursday 8th September. For over seventy years she has dedicated her life to the service of her country and the Commonwealth, and been a figurehead of national unity and stability at a time of enormous change.

She has led at all times with a quiet determination and selfless devotion, and has been all that is the very best in us.

We join the Royal Family and the nation in their grief and offer the Royal Family our heartfelt condolences.

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God Save King Charles III



## Stop Press - Urgent !!!

### Speaker Organiser

So many of you enjoy our monthly General Meetings, especially having the opportunity of hearing some interesting and varied speakers. These are arranged by our Speaker Organiser who has fulfilled the role for many years now and really wants to pass it on to another member or members. We are now getting desperate to find a replacement for her. Ulla has booked speakers until Christmas but we then we have no further speakers unless someone agrees to take up this role. Ulla has written some details about it.

*I have really enjoyed the role of Speaker Organiser for Marple Bridge and Mellor u3a for 7 years but it is now time to hand over the task to someone with new fresh ideas. I will share with you how I have approached the role and hope you might feel that, "This is something for me".*

*I plan a programme for the year ahead several months in advance and identify the dates for these meetings. The u3a has a comprehensive of speakers on a great variety of subjects. I also receive recommendations from members and other local groups e.g. WI, in my search for speakers.*

*Initially, I contact the speaker by phone to discuss availability, date, fee, title of talk, venue, equipment needed and parking etc. If we agree, I will send an email with all the details and request a mail back to confirm.*

*Once I have arranged a list of speakers I share this with the Committee and the editor of the Newsletter About 2 to 4 weeks prior to the meeting I contact them again to ensure the speaker is still available. I also tend to phone them the night before the meeting.*

*Before the meeting I contact the treasurer about the fee. I then receive a cheque from our treasurer for payment.*

*Finally a letter (or email) of thanks as soon as possible after the event.*

## Chairman's Chit Chat....

Looking around the Hall at the August Charity Event and 40th Anniversary Celebration I was pleased to hear the wonderful buzz of chattering, laughing and people enjoying themselves. It made me remember one of the main reasons I and probably most of you joined Marple Bridge and Mellor u3a. There are three words that the u3a use to summarize their philosophy. They are "Learn, Laugh and Live." All three are extremely important to me but I can't see the point of one of them without the other two.



When I think back over the last few years and compare people's feelings then with now, well what a difference. I can almost use opposites, such as isolation/meeting friends, trepidation/composure, stressful/relaxed, confused/ understanding, unprotected/protected etc. The list can go on and on! I like to think that for a lot of us our u3a has played a major part in moving to these more positive aspects of our lives. Whilst we are laughing and making the most out of our lives we are also learning along the way. Whether you are exercising your body or exercising your mind by debating items in the news, talking about a book you've read or studying something more in depth you are always learning along the way.

We have lost a few members and a few groups during these difficult times but it is lovely to see so many new members joining us. What we really need now is some new groups starting. Get your thinking caps on and contact anyone on the committee with your ideas of what you'd like to do. It could be a weekly, monthly or occasional meeting, or simply just a few sessions. Let's revitalise ourselves.

We also desperately need one or two of you to be our Speaker Organiser. So many of you enjoy the monthly meetings with a speaker. If you want these to continue we urgently need someone to arrange speakers. Ulla has written a description of the role in this newsletter and I know she will be willing to help anyone who takes it on. Our u3a doesn't run itself; it relies on the members to run it.

This also applies to the committee. We need some new blood to join us. Whether you are a new member of our u3a or a longer standing member you will have so much to offer. Please talk to one of the committee and come and see what we are like at a committee meeting.

I feel very positive about our u3a. I trust you to feel the same and find how you can help and support us in the future.

*Shirley Hammond*

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## Notices & News Items

### Marple Bridge & Mellor u3a Meetings

20 September	John Stirling	" From Toy Town to Buckingham Palace"
18 October	Steve and Carol Robson.	"Bang Up To The Elephant"
15 November	Michael Leach.	" The Natural History of Christmas"

## Gardening Group

On Wednesday 11th May 31 members of the U3A went to Bodnant Gardens in the Conway Valley. It is run by the National Trust.

The rain poured down until we were about 10 miles away then it stopped, the clouds broke up and the sun managed to shine, thus providing us with ideal conditions for our visit.



I had never seen so many flowers on the Rhododendrons and Azaleas – the plants were just a mass of colour, white, yellows, oranges, reds and endless mixtures of these. Whilst walking round the 80 acre gardens especially by the river in the valley bottom new magnificent vistas constantly presented themselves. The seats in this area were ideal for picnic stops.



Some Magnolias and Camellias were still in bloom, however the Laburnham Arch was only just starting to show fully opened flowers so slightly disappointing some people but the 'Winter Garden' still had some flowers and coloured stems showing that it had been beautiful.

The White Wisteria on the Terraces showed up the red climbing Roses which were just starting to flower to an advantage – small blue flowers at ground level gave a 'Royal' feeling to our visit in Jubilee year.

During the last 'Winter Storms' the garden suffered the loss of some specimen trees which had opened up some areas allowing plants which had been in the shade to grow and flower. This meant that some paths were closed. A large Sequoia which had fallen over a path was causing difficulties as to it's removal as chain saws were not to be used – rules of the local Water Board. So it showed the size of these trees and the smallness of the root ball.

For those who had time the 2 cafes provided hot and cold food also drinks. An Art Gallery and Craft Centre showed interesting paintings done by local Artists and Crafts people.

Margaret Hogg on 0161 449 857

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*(Apologies to Margaret and the Gardening Group, this item was missed out of the July issue, Malcolm)*

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## Charity Event and the celebration of the National u3a's 40th Anniversary.

What a lovely morning we had at the Charity Event and the celebration of the National u3a's 40th Anniversary. Members seemed to enjoy the morning. The atmosphere was buzzing with lots of laughter and chatting.

Roy and Paul, the representatives from the Samaritans, our charity for this year, gave us a brief resume of some of their work.



**We succeeded in raising £614. A very impressive amount!**

I would like to thank all of you who took part in any way to raising this amount. Some members helped in organising this event, some helped by setting up and managing aspects on the day, many of you came and supported by donating, buying and taking part in the activities, some who couldn't attend sent donations. Whatever part you played in the morning, added towards making this such a successful event.

Shirley Hammond

# Outings Group

## Isle of Wight Trip – July 2022

The action packed holiday to the Isle of Wight eventually took place this July in glorious weather. Too hot, some said, but that's one thing no one can control and the coach was air conditioned for our trips all over the island.

Our base was Ryde, the gateway to the I Of W, which has been the hub of rail and ferry crossings from Portsmouth since Victorian times carrying pedestrians and vehicles along its 745 ft long pier.

Now, With approx £30 million investment from Network Rail and the Government, the island's links via train, ferry, catamaran and Hovercraft to the mainland are once more secure.

Our hotel, the Royal Esplanade, a Grade II listed building, had its heyday in the Victorian period and has been 'sympathetically' renovated in keeping with its style.

We visited Osborne House, beloved by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, and Carrisbrook Castle, where Charles I was imprisoned until his execution. The museum there was excellent with many artefacts donated by Victoria herself, and we got to see their famous donkeys. Trips on the steam train, and to a gin distillery were also arranged, together with a visit to Ventnor Botanic garden and stops at various pretty seaside towns many with thatched roofed cottages. Some even braved the chair lift down to the pebbled beach at The Needles to see the multicoloured rock formations.

Altogether a value for money holiday with good food, comfortable accommodation

By the time you have received this newsletter, we (the outings group) would have visited Portmeirion. We can expect a wonderful place welcoming us when we get there but we are praying for fine weather to complement it !!

On Monday the 10th of October we are visiting Calke Abbey which is a National Trust property south of Derby. This is a place where time seems to standstill. Join us to discover it's secrets.

£18 pp for National Trust members and £25pp for non members.

You've only got this months general meeting to book in person but can book via email.

Organiser....Hazel Bhatt....[outings@mbmu3a.org.uk](mailto:outings@mbmu3a.org.uk) Tel....07808809795

An opportunity to revisit Chetham's school of music during November. We are in the process of confirming the date when the school reopens in few days time. Watch this space.

**BETTY! A SORT OF MUSICAL**, a heart-warming celebration of the human spirit. Maxine Peake and Seiriol Davies write and star in this brand new production, directed by former Royal Exchange Theatre Artistic Director Sarah Frankcom.

As the first female speaker of the House of Commons, Betty Boothroyd is a Dewsbury girl to celebrate. Six ladies (plus Calvin) of The Dewsbury Players are going to do just that... through the medium of musical theatre!

Date & Time Wednesday the 11th of January 2:30 pm Booking from September 2022

Organiser...Hazel Bhatt. email.... [outings@mbmu3a.org.uk](mailto:outings@mbmu3a.org.uk) Tel: 07808809795

We will be planning for next year outings program next month and would love to hear from anyone with their suggestions for consideration. Thank you.



## *Chat and Cuppa group – Come and join us!*

I was approached during our various lockdowns to set up a zoom group, on the computer, where members could meet up once a month for a chat and a cuppa from the safety of their own homes. This group has now been running for the best part of 2 years and we have recently been discussing whether it has run its course and should now fold. Numbers have diminished over the last few months but participants are still enjoying this monthly, sociable get together.

We have decided to continue to meet on zoom through autumn and winter and reassess our future in the spring. It would be lovely to have some other members join us. You are all welcome.

We meet up on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 10.30, just for half an hour, through zoom and chat about a previously suggested topic. These have covered a wide variety of interesting subjects: some serious, some humorous, some just our memories! From books we've enjoyed reading, to our first cars. From a memorable piece of music to disastrous 'Do It Yourself' experiences.

One good thing about using zoom is that you can join in from wherever you are providing you have internet connection.

It would be lovely if some more members could be added to my list for receiving the zoom link and the suggested topic for the chat. You can join us to just listen or you can join for a chat. Whichever makes you feel comfortable.

Anyone wishing to be added to my contact list please send me your details.

*Shirley Hammond chairman@mbmu3a.org.uk*

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## *French Group*

Our French group has lost a few long term members recently for a variety of reasons and so we would like to try to encourage a few new members.

We meet at the Windsor Castle on the second and fourth Thursdays each month at 10.00am. Our meetings are very sociable and we help each other to talk about our experiences around a chosen topic. You can prepare as much or as little as you need for each meeting.

It is not a French lesson but we support and help each other in the use of the language.

Anyone interested can contact me for further information, or just turn up at the Windsor Castle and see what we do.

*Shirley Hammond chairman@mbmu3a.org.uk*

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## *Strolling Group*

Our "Strolling Group" is for members who would like a gentle stroll rather than a longer walk.

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 mobile 07411 352 801



### *Tuesday October 4th Gail Dixon*

Meet at Ley Lane, off Glossop Road to leave at 10.30am

A circular stroll around the countryside, in that area, returning to Ley Lane.

We're not planning a picnic now the weather will probably be getting cooler. We can still go somewhere for a cuppa and maybe something to eat.

### *Tuesday November 1st Shirley Hammond*

Meet in the car park at B and M, Manchester Road, Hyde. SK14 2BD As you enter the car park head to the extreme right hand side away from the Food Warehouse (by Iceland).

Stroll along the canal, crossing Manchester Road, to the River Tame and back to the canal to return to our cars. A fairly flat walk with just one small slope toward the end.

Possibility of a cuppa and something to eat at Pop In, a community café, near Asda in Hyde.

## Dining Group

Thank you for your support and hope you join us at our future venues. Our September outing is The CLINK Styal.

October 18th

Just for a change we have gone for a Carvery at The Spread Eagle Hatherlow Romiley. We still have places available £19.50 for Carvery plus dessert. Please get in touch if you are interested.  
Contact Pat 01613667453



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

The November/December meal will be on Thursday 1st of December. We hope to have all the details at the September meeting.

Pat Walker

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## Snippets

The Elderly Lady

The elderly lady visited her doctor complaining about her painful right knee.

"Sorry," he said after the examination, "It's just old age."

"Well," she replied tartly, "my left knee is just the same age and THAT one doesn't hurt."



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## Jigsaw Sales at Monthly Meetings

A table selling 2nd HAND JIGSAW PUZZLES at our monthly meetings. Please bring some along and buy another one.

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## 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.*

**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**

## National u3a Events

### 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](mailto:margery.mount@icloud.com) Telephone 0161 427 4260

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

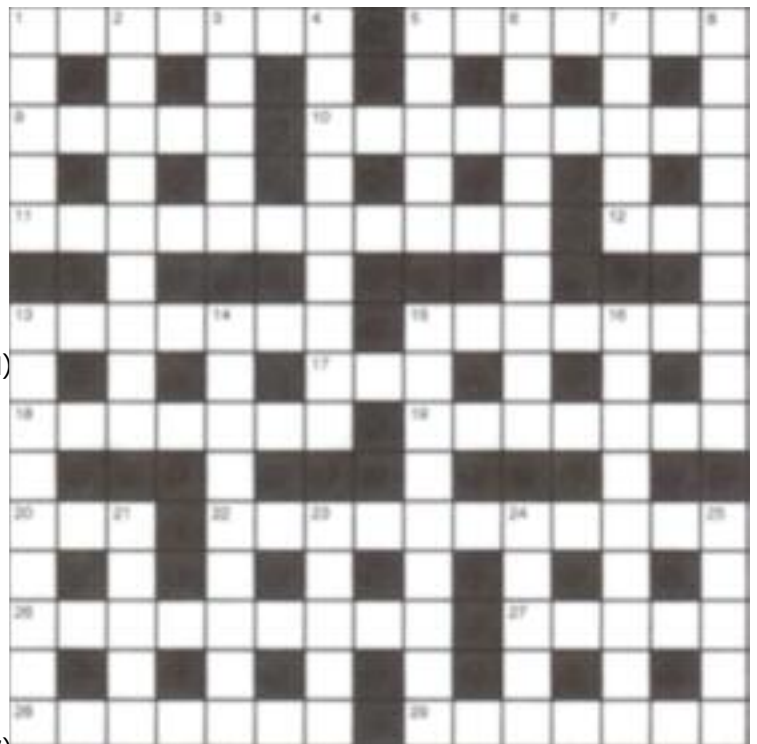
*compiled jointly by U3A Crossword Group*

### Clues across

1. Peaceful body of water. (7)
5. Knocking musical style. (7)
9. Start leave, of course using medical stand-in. (5)
10. A panel met to organise signage. (4-5)
11. Sit and natter with Mr about broadcasting equipment. (11)
13. Head off for train frequently. (3)
15. Inclined to sound tardy before start of table tennis game. (7)
17. Many sold at auction. (3)
18. I fly about following faulty map and louder sounds. (7)
19. One who used to model whistle-blower. (7)
20. Chopped herb is not good. (3)
22. Ominous gin I drunk is humiliating. (11)
26. Tickle director to get him annoyed. (9)
27. High-rise living introduced by every young recently inspired engineer. (5)
28. Former Head of church employed without obligation. (7)
29. Support could initially get journalist stabbed. (7)

### Clues down

1. I joined conspiracy to capture airman. (5)
2. Cook a chop with a difference –happy? (4-1-4)
3. Perfume sometimes hides pollution. (5)
4. With guile copper catches Lynn with gin drunk. (9)
5. Instructions merit revision. (5)
6. Made cap ripple using fastener. (5,4)
7. Thought I'm a goner, swallowing an insect. (5)



8. Wonderful to tolerate guiding lights. (5,4)
13. Using less bait I restore consistency. (9)
14. Starts those let into the secret. (9)
15. Flustered dame upset production. (7,2)
16. Church leader right in charge of Diocese. (9)
21. Poetry in early Richard Rogers music. (5)
23. Wrote down first names of the erotic dancers. (5)
24. Relative took drug in French resort. (5)
25. Ebbing sea go fast. (5)

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## Remembrance Sunday

This year I will be laying a wreath on behalf of MBMu3a at the cenotaph in Mellor on Sunday November 13th. As yet I don't know any details but will keep you informed.

It would be lovely if you could note the date in your diary and join me on this occasion.

*Shirley Hammond*

## 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. Pacific 5. Rapping 9. Locum 10. Name plate 11.  
Transmitter 12. Off 13. Sloping 15. Soluble 17. Lot 18. Amplify  
19. Exposer 20. III 22. Ignominious 26. Irritated 27. Eyrte  
28. Excused 29. Pierced  
Down 1. Pilot 2. Cock-a-hoop 3. Fumes 4. Cunningly 5. Remit 6.  
Paper clip 7. Imago 8. Great bear 13. Stabilise  
14. Initiates 15. Steamed up 16. Bishopric 21. Lyric 23. Noted  
24. Nice 25. speed

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

Please send items for publication by email

to [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.mbmu3a.org.uk](http://www.mbmu3a.org.uk)

***All contributions for the next edition of the Newsletter should be received by 2nd November at the latest***