

## Newsletter - March 2023

**Please Note** - Monthly Meetings are now held on the 3rd THURSDAY of the month

### Chairman's Chit Chat...

Hello everyone. My name is Diane Holker and I am your new chairman at the start of our U3A's year. Yes I have been here before, ( a long time ago) so hopefully I should remember how it all works.



Until I get to know all the committee members, I don't have much to report, however I trust we will continue to ensure that our members will continue to benefit from the groups, outings etc., in the coming year.

Covid has impacted our lives in many ways and some people have had great difficulty in getting back "into the swing of things" and some not even venturing out and re-joining any groups including the U3A. In the next few months we, the committee, hope to contact these members and see if we can encourage them to come back and if they need any help with transport and such. We also hope to recruit new members and please invite your friends and neighbours to join us and help to increase our membership. Please feel free to contact me with any new ideas you may have or even any concerns, and I will do my best to help.

I take this opportunity to thank the outgoing committee members for their time and effort this past year and let's make 2023 the best year yet and I look forward to meeting you all at our monthly meetings.

*Diane Holker*

## Notices & other News Items

### MEMBERSHIP CARDS

**If you have not got your Membership Card for 2023 already, please collect it from the Membership Desk before you book in !!!**

### Marple Bridge & Mellor u3a Meetings

#### Speakers at meetings for 2023

17/01/2023	Eric McConnell	A Scotsman Abroad
16/02/2023	AGM & Marple Dementia Society	
16/03/2023	Nick Bostin	My time with the Foreign Office in Bangladesh
20/04/2023	Steve Cliffe	The Strange Haunting of Marple Hall
18/05/2023	Brian Hallworth	1939-45 Forget me Knots memories of the war years
15/06/2023	Bernard Loveday	A Healthy Heart
20/07/2023	Matthew Martin	Tax, Care and Toy Boys
17/08/2023	Charity Event	
21/09/2023	Paulina	Sustainability and the environment
19/10/2023	Peter Turner	Though the Eyes of a Magician



## Almoner

If anyone hears of another member of Marple Bridge & Mellor u3a who is unwell, in hospital or needs a bit of cheering up for any reason, please let Olwyn Wych (almoner@mbmu3a.org.uk) or 285 6766 know so that we can send a little card.

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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 only brought for the Stall.

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

## Jigsaw Sales at Monthly Meetings

We have a table selling 2nd HAND JIGSAW PUZZLES at our monthly meetings.

Please bring some along and buy another one.

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## Outings Group

Only a select few joined the February outing to the Lowry Gallery and Imperial War Museum but had an enjoyable private tour of Lowry paintings and a guide told us some personal backstory of his life that made it into one of his paintings

On the contrary for the March outing, fifty members signed up to visit, **Castlefield Viaduct (Garden in the Sky) 22nd March**. Fortunately this is the maximum number for a group booking !! May I suggest to travel on train and then take tram travelling on the Eccles line but get off at Castlefield/Deansgate stop. Turn left after you disembark the tram. You will see a sign at ground level saying Castlefield viaduct this way. You will need to walk across three tram lines at this point. Please take care and cross safely. Turn left again and walk towards car park and you will see a sign for it as Castlefield Viaduct in the distance . It will take you within 5 to 10 minutes walk from the tram station.

**A trip to Liverpool World Museum is now on Tuesday the 18th of April** (changed from Monday the 17th as the museum is closed on Mondays). So far only 5 members signed up for this tour. It won't be financially viable to hire a coach for so few numbers (minimum number of 35 needed), so we will travel by train (rail ticket cost £17:50 with senior rail card it will only be £11:35). The group booking at the museum is at 12 noon. The entry to the museum is free.

For May outings, we are booked to visit **Macclesfield silk museum on Friday the 19th of May**. Unfortunately the paradise mill will be closed for refurbishment although the exact date in May hasn't been finalised. The guided tours of the Silk Museum which looks at the machine gallery including braiding and tassel-making historical machinery, looks at the industrial and social history of the silk industry and those who worked here, and Egyptology collection which stems from Marianne Brocklehurst's explorations from the 19th century. The cost for the guided tour is £6 pp and refreshments (hot drinks and cake £4 pp). The travel arrangement for getting there and back is still being worked out bearing in mind the coach cost will depend on the numbers attending.

Apologies in advance for writing about 2023 Christmas but the **Christmas at Chatsworth** are normally finalised in February of the year !! We have been able to reserve a slot for this year which will be on **Wednesday the 8th of November 2023** and the time for the house entry at 13:30. We have time to wander around Christmas market before and visit the light trail in the gardens afterwards (which is included in the price). The cost for this trip will be £51 (£34pp for house and garden plus £17 pp for the coach hire and driver's gratuitous). There are only limited numbers availability. So book early to avoid disappointment.

We are taking booking for all the above trips at March, April & May general meetings.

## 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](mailto:joanfogg@btinternet.com) or  
Shirley Hammond [david.hammond60@btinternet.com](mailto:david.hammond60@btinternet.com)

The group who strolled on 7th February

### Tuesday March 7th Sue Norcross Stroll to set off at 10.30

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. Afterwards we could go for refreshments at the Hare and Hounds.

### Tuesday April 4th Gail Dixon Stroll to set off at 10.30

Meet at 10.30 in the small car park off Torkington Road. The car park is up a narrow entrance taking you behind Torkington Lodge which has a postcode SK7 4RQ. This is the entrance marked in orange at the top of the map. Look out for Gail. We will then stroll around the many paths in the Park. Exploring the different natural and manmade features. We could have a drink in one of the local hostelrys or return to Dobbies.



### Tuesday May 2nd Jenny Summers Stroll to set off at 10.00 (Bus pass needed)

Take the bus from Marple at 10.00am towards Hayfield. Stroll along the walkway, through the Bluebell Wood, to Hayfield where you can follow the Calico short walk into the village and have a drink or your lunch at one of the cafes. The stroll is approximately 1 ½ miles. Return buses are 20 minutes past the hour. Strollers can decide whether they go straight home or stay for a drink.



Shirley Hammond



## Dining Group.



### March – The Fishermans Table – Wednesday 29th

There are still a few places left, I will still be taking bookings at the next meeting.  
£25 for a three-course meal.

### April – The Midway, Stockport – Thursday 27th

£23 for a two-course meal.

### May – The Crown – Tuesday 30th

We are expecting to get a menu from them by the end of the month.

For the future we have spoken to the Clink Restaurant about doing an evening meal the last week of July or the last week of September, they have said they are willing to do it but we have to guarantee at least 40 people.

I will put a list out at the next meeting for people who are interested to put their names down and tell us which date they would prefer.

Pat Walker

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

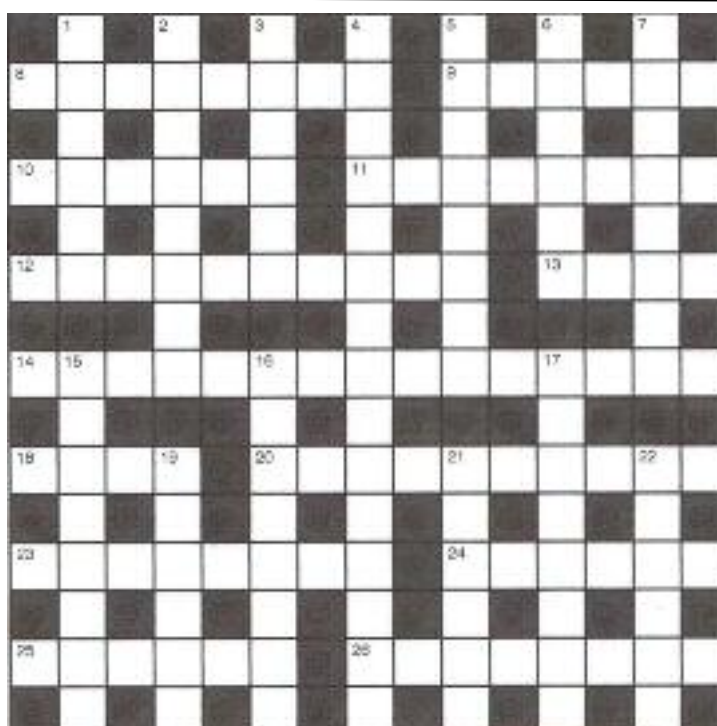
compiled jointly by U3A Crossword Group

### Clues across

8. In the dark I injured shin which led to a decline. (8)
9. Rondo I perform within the house. (6)
10. Power in the Diocese goes to church for sermon. (6)
11. Blessed, not Diane, getting upset (8)
12. Driving force for captive, European held by trained master. (5,5)
13. Stolen property in Manager's wages. (4)
14. Wagner organised Ted and me and rung Margot, to make part of a cycle. (15)
18. Fish, else get confused. (4)
20. Sam and I will take anyone worried about dressing. (10)
23. Change 44 into dress frill. (4-4)
24. Can't stand in parade testing. (6)
25. I dream about honour. (6)
26. Vehicle with French name – youthful introduction to freedom. (8)

### Clues down

1. Weak traveller from Space sticks to rock. (6)
2. Inflatable? Raffle it for a change. (4,4)
3. Motorway goes over hill – that's an unfortunate foccurrence. (6)
4. Authorise hay way – design understood. (1,4,4,3,3)
5. Margo returned to find short skirt at Mass. (8)
6. A lecturer is a handsome Greek youth. (6)



7. Alarm went off for a wren. (8)
15. Poem about flowing river to be in control. (8)
16. Said to have exams assessed again. (8)
17. Confused organist gets a reprimand. (8)
19. Boss over moon in workshop. (6)
21. Altogether untidy, disorganised. (6)
22. Crisis causes Americans to surround oil producer. (6)

Sheila Stafford Group Co-ordinator

This Newsletter appears bi-monthly. The next edition will be published May 2023

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 28th April at the latest**

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



## Announcements

*It is with regret that we report the death of a number of our members during the past few weeks.*

*Pat Chourbaji, Anthony Foley, Betty Brooks and John Spreckley, (who along with his wife Heather ran our Book Stall for many years).*

*We sent our sincere sympathy and condolences to all their families and friends.*

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

**Crossword Solution**  
Across 8. Diminish 9. Indoor 10. Speech 11. Anointed  
12. Steam power 13. Swag 14. Gotterdammerung 18. Fels  
20. Mayonnaise 23. Fron-fou 24. Detest 25. Admire 26. Autonomy  
Down 1. Limpet 2. Life raft 3. Mishap 4. I hear what you say  
5. Kilogram 6. Adonis 7. Forearm 15. Override  
16. Remarked 17. Roasting 19. Studio 21. Nudity 22. sesame

## Newsletter items .....

*Thank you to the people who have submitted articles for inclusion in last 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*