

Newsletter - July 2023

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

Chairman's Chit Chat....

I'm sure you are all aware that Marple Bridge & Mellor u3a has a reputation for being the best in the area (that's why we joined - yes? but like many organisations we have also suffered by losing members due to Covid and other reasons, and therefore never fully recovered. We hope to have a recruitment drive possibly in August to find new members and we look to you helping us. Posters will be available for members to distribute with a view to boosting our membership.

A reminder that also in August we are having our "Charity Event" in support of Marple Dementia Drop-in with various stalls and raffles and look forward to seeing you all there. Please bring as many friends and family as you can persuade.

As I mentioned at the June meeting, we sadly lost our Speaker Organiser Peter Fraser, and now require a replacement. If anyone is willing to take on this post they will have plenty of help (if needed) so please think about joining us and you will be welcomed with open arms!!! Peter had booked speakers up to October so there is no pressure.

Changing the subject, I want to tell you about my nightly visitor. His name is Hector and at approx 10.30 pm he visits my garden for a dish of Felix cat food which he demolishes. He visited me last year and when winter came he obviously went into hibernation and I was delighted that he's returned this year. I have also made him a "feeding station" that only he can access and not the local cats. By Googling I have also learned that to stop rats coming for the food you should grow mint which apparently they don't like so don't come into the garden, however Hedgehogs don't mind it.

If you have any similar stories about wildlife in your garden we would all like to hear about them, so please forward same either to me or direct to Malcolm our Newsletter Editor. Also, if you have any funny stories that you would like me read out at the general meetings please send them to me direct. I've already received some from members - many thanks.



Diane Holker

Notices & other News Items

Marple Bridge & Mellor u3a Meetings

Speakers at meetings for 2023

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



Monthly meeting entrance £2 from September

An update on our finances

Our income comes from membership and entrance fees and for last year Riviera Travel commission. In 2022 the money coming in balanced with the money going out thanks to a £700 commission payment from Riviera Travel. This was a significant improvement over 2021 when lack of income during covid meant that we used £3000 from our reserves.

This year we have 50 or so fewer members and have had to purchase, at a reduced rate, a much-needed software update used to publish our newsletter. It's also unclear as to how much commission we might receive from Riviera Travel. So our finances are not heading in the right direction and we need to take action

We reviewed our position at the June committee meeting and it was resolved that we need to increase the monthly entrance fee to £2 from and including our September meeting. This will help us to get back towards a balanced budget

Mike Dewhurst, Treasurer

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.

Book Sales at the Monthly Meetings

Due to the limited amount of storage space and the fact that hardback books and non fiction books are not popular, it is requested that paperback fiction books only are 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.

Dining Group

Wednesday 16th August
The Oddfellows @ Mellor 6.15 Arrival
Three courses for £25
Bookings will be taken at the July meeting.

Wednesday 27th September
Lymefield Garden Centre @ Broadbottom 1.45 for 2.00pm
Afternoon Tea £17 (We thought we would have a change).
Bookings will be taken at the July meeting.



The Oddfellows, Mellor

Wednesday 25th October
Meal at the Devonshire Arms @ Mellor 7.00 for 7.30
Three course meal for £22
Bookings will be taken at the September meeting.

We have now opened a bank account specifically for the Dining Group - MB&M DINING. We would like to start collecting the full amount at the time of booking. This will make it more manageable for myself and Shirley rather than spending the first 45 minutes to an hour collecting and counting the money on the night.

Pat Walker & Shirley Hammond.

Strolling Group

Our "Strolling Group" is for members who would like a gentle stroll. 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

Join us for a variety of strolls exploring our area and the surrounding countryside.

We benefit from outside exercise as well as joining in enjoyable social occasions.



Tuesday August 1st Shirley Hammond

Meet at the Regent Cinema in Marple to set off at 10.30am

Stroll along Lakes Road down towards the Roman Lakes. Explore around the lakes. Then follow Low Lea Road and Town Lane back into Marple Bridge.

We could have a cuppa at one of the cafes in Marple Bridge.

Afterwards we could either take the bus back to Marple or stroll back up the hill,

Tuesday September 5th Olwyn Wych

Meet at Dobbies Car Park.

Stroll out of the car park and over the stile at the side of the drive. Go up through the trees into Chadkirk, along the river and over the bridge. It will be too late to see the Well Dressing but we could wander around the walled garden and there are seats there. We will then stroll back to the car park.

We could have a cuppa and a cake or a snack at Dobbies.

Tuesday 3rd October Jenny Summers and Agnes Barlow

Take the 10.00 am 358 bus from Marple to New Mills on Tuesday 3rd October.

Descend steps down to the Torrs by the Heritage Centre to the Riverside Park below. Take a short detour right to see the dramatic mill ruins, the weir and the Archimedes screw turbine which lies at the confluence of the rivers Sett and Goyt. Retrace our steps to follow the Midshires Way on to the spectacular Millenium Walkway (160m long) which was completed in 1999. We walk on to discover Mousley Bottom Local Nature Reserve. Follow through the well-maintained reserve by the river to Hague Bar Road for the return bus 358 to Marple at 11.57am.

Bring bus pass, drink and wear suitable clothing for time of year.

Tuesday November 7th Sue Norcross

Details later

Visit from the doctor

A retired doctor and his wife popped in to the local village hall to see his old friends and patients. When they arrived they were immediately greeted warmly by everyone, except one man who didn't speak to him or give him a glance.

This was puzzling - at some earlier time had he offended the man?

He eventually walked over and stood in front of him, asking "Do you know who I am?"

The old man looked up and quickly said: "No, but you can go and ask the organizer - she'll tell you"

Missing

I've hunted near I've hunted far,
I've even looked inside my car.

I've lost my glasses, I'm in need,
To have them now so I can read.

I loudly swear, and I curse,
Did I leave them in my purse?

Are they behind the sofa or under the bed?
OH there they are - on my head!

Outings Group

I hope you all enjoyed the lovely flaming June weather and managed to get out and about.

I received a few emails from members after our recent visit to Bolton Abbey informing me how much they enjoyed the day. It was nice to receive some feed back especially positive ones.

We are now taking bookings for the following trips at the monthly general meetings or through emailing or via phone. Email address...outings@mbmu3a.org.uk. Tel...07808809795.

Nostell (Described as a treasure house, National Trust property near Wakefield).

Date..Thursday the 3rd of August. Cost.. £32 (National Trust members £20).

Lytham Hall..(owned by Lytham Town Trust & managed by Heritage trust for the North West).

Date...Tuesday the 26th of September. Cost...£34

Chetham school of music... Lunch time concert & a tour of school library

Date...Thursday the 12th of October

(waiting to confirm the date/day according to the school concert schedule).

Cost...Lunch time concert free

Visit to school library in the morning cost £10 maximum of 15 only available.

Christmas at Chatsworth

Palace of Adventure at Chatsworth, light trail in the extensive grounds and Christmas market.

Date...Wednesday the 8th of November. Cost...£50

Hazel Bhatt

Tit-Bits

When Lord Sugar points his gnarled finger at an unlucky candidate at the end of The Apprentice T V show, he growls "You're Fired". They know then to collect their coat, scarf and briefcase and leave, because it's a TV reality show with little consequence other than a somewhat bruised ego, but unfortunately in the real world of Britain today a recent survey from ACAS (the Government Advisory Service) found that nearly 1 in 5 of employees (18%) will be made redundant, fired, let go, given the sack, over the next year. It makes for grim statistics; most employers try to soften the blow for their layoffs, either in face-to-face meetings or by written word, creating somewhat black comedy reading.

So, here are just a few of the euphemisms for job losses that have been known to be used:-

'We are rebalancing our workforce' or,

'You are not being fired, we are simply eliminating the position'.

How about this piece of Whitehall jargon, describing a redundancy exercise as 'a descending flight path of headcount'. Or even

'You're being given the opportunity to start your new job search immediately.'

Then there was an American bank in London that called job losses a 'negative staff retention programme'.

'Down sizing' is an expression also used, or perhaps the kinder 'right sizing'.

One Company had a Careers Transitional Programme, CTP for short but which was widely known as Cash to P... Off by the unfortunate recipients.

At the annual chat with the Personnel Director of another firm those summoned were offered a cigarette if they were being let go but not if they were safe.

Was this was a case of 'no smoke without fire' ?

Most of our members left secondary school, college, or university in the 1950s and early 1960s when unemployment (2%) was almost non-existent. A job, an apprenticeship or a profession for life was, in most cases, guaranteed. But those halcyon days were numbered as Britain, for a variety of reasons, faced a continuing downturn in economic growth and productivity compared to our competitors, Germany, Japan and the USA. Therefore, in the mid 1960s when Harold Wilson referred to a significant ' redeployment of the workforce' most Brits. had a new word enter their vocabulary - REDUNDANCY - and it's been with us ever since.

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Some Photographs of Members Gardens



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

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 Friday, 1st September at the latest