

Wishing you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year

Chairman's Chit Chat...

Hello everyone. I start by wishing you all a healthy, wealthy and happy NEW YEAR, I hope you all enjoyed the festive season and bringing in 2024 with friends and family.



In December we came to the end of our financial year which means we all need to renew our membership. We will be holding our AGM in February at which we elect members to the committee. We need some new members. Anyone can put their name forward and I know many of you have life skills that our members would be pleased to benefit from and enjoy. So.....don't be shy....we don't bite, come and join us. We need your support.

A vacancy has arisen for a treasurer for the Outings Group. This does not require you to be a committee member, but to help Hazel, the organiser with the fees.

Due to personal circumstances we will also require a Webmaster as from April '24. I'm not sure if you have to be a "geek" but if you have an interest in this field, we need to hear from you. Help will be available if required and again, there is no need to join the committee, unless you wish to.

Having said all that, I will be keeping the "official" part of the AGM to a minimum, we have a speaker afterwards therefore we can enjoy a more relaxed and entertaining meeting.

I look forward to seeing you all at our monthly meetings and making the most of 2024.

Diane Holker

Notices & other News Items

Marple Bridge & Mellor u3a Meetings Speakers

18th January 2024	Kevin & Joy Siddall	A Musical Meander through Britain
15th February 2024	AGM & Simon Michael	Talk about his crime writing and work as a barrister
21st March 2024	Marilyn Gregory	A Talk on Leprosy, a history of the disease and how it still affects people

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.

Membership Renewals for 2024

We will be open for membership renewal at the general meeting in January. The subscription for 2024 is £ 12 per person.

There are two ways to renew your membership: (You don't need to fill in a renewal form)

1. In person at the membership desk at any general meeting
Put the Cash/Cheque in an envelope with your Name and Membership Number on.
2. By post to – MB&M u3a Membership Secretary, 24 Beechwood Drive, Marple, SK6 7DG
(enclose a stamped addressed envelope if you wish your new card to be posted back to you).

You can pay by cash, or cheque made out to MB&M u3a. Please put your name and membership number on the back of the cheque, this can be found on the bottom of this year's membership card.

IMPORTANT: If any of your personal details, such as address, telephone number, email address etc, have changed please let us know at the same time as renewal. Failure to report any changes may result in you not getting important communication from us.

If you wish to receive the newsletter by post please enclose 6 stamped addressed envelopes (size 230mm x 160mm – size A5) when you renew your membership.

Notice of Marple Bridge & Mellor u3a Annual General Meeting 2024

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of MBM u3a will take place on Thursday 15th February 2024.

Nomination forms for committee roles are available from our Secretary Barbara Scholes secretary@mbmu3a.org.uk

Any questions that you wish to raise in 'Any Other Business' must be submitted to the Secretary, at the latest 2 weeks prior to the AGM, i.e. 2nd February 2024, to allow for any necessary research for information to be carried out.

Agenda for the AGM

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Approval of minutes of the 2023 AGM
3. Chairman's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts.
6. Election of Secretary
7. Election of Committee Members
8. Members Annual Subscription for 2025
9. Any Other Business
10. Vote of Thanks
11. Formal conclusion of the AGM



Strolling Group

During 2023 we have had some super strolls, including exploring some new areas as well as revisiting some well known strolls. We have been really lucky with the weather! I don't think we've had to cancel any of our strolls this year. We have managed to dodge all the rain and poor weather which seems to have continued throughout the whole year.

The strolling group is an open group and any of our members can join us at any time. Just look at our calendar and turn up at the designated starting place. If you require any further information please contact myself or Geoff Fogg. We always welcome new members.

Thank you to all who have arranged a stroll during this last year. I look forward to many more adventures, social strolls, and delicious lunches or just drinks throughout 2024.

Shirley Hammond. (Continued overleaf)

Tuesday February 6th Shirley Hammond Meet in Dobbies Car Park. To leave at 10.30am.

Take a short stroll along the Alan Newton Way. This is paved so should be ok underfoot but please be aware of the weather at this time of year.

We can then warm up with a chat and cuppa in Dobbies café.

Tuesday March 5th Shirley Hammond Meet outside the Italian, La Dolce Vita, in Marple centre. To leave at 10.30am.

Stroll along the canal. Further details at a later date.

Stroll back along the canal to Marple.

Enjoy some refreshments in one of the cafes in Marple.

Tuesday April 2nd Ursula Southon

Tuesday May 7th Jenny Summers

Tuesday June 4th Dorothy Jones and Margaret Williams

Tuesday July 2nd Peter Warburton and Judy Dunham

Tuesday August 6th Pat McCrystall



Dining Group



Happy New Year to all our members. – Pat Walker & Shirley Hammond

Thank you all for supporting our choice of venues last year and hope we can find some new places as well as old favourites to visit this coming year.

Wednesday 7th February Spring Gardens Marple Bridge. – Two course meal £23

March – We are talking to The Spread Eagle

(A date has not been agreed yet, hope to let you know early in the new year.)

If any of you have visited a new restaurant and would recommend it for the group, please let us know.

The concept of the u3a is to promote learning, make new friends and to be an organisation where people on their own can venture out and be made very welcome.

The Dining group's objective is to support the concept of the u3a and with that in mind, we arrange events where old and new friends may meet over a pleasant meal. We do not operate table plans (but have a free seating arrangement) so that people on their own may join in more easily. If you would like to join us, we will make sure you are looked after. You may not know the people you sit with, but you will by the end of the meal.

We try to book at least one lunch or Afternoon Tea per year for those who don't like to go out at night.

Outings Group

Happy New Year to you all. Hope you had lovely Christmas celebrations.

Here is the plan for outings during 2024. Please note the trip to Avro air museum is awaiting a confirmation.

March 18th Monday Classic tour of Spain by Riviera

flying to Malaga from Manchester. Six nights

Organiser... Hazel Bhatt. Tel: 07808809795

April 16th Tuesday... World of Glass Museum tour, St Helens.

Cost £33pp which includes coach hire, driver's gratuities, tea and coffee on arrival, guided tour of the museum, galleries, glass blowing demonstrations and lunch.

(Continued over leaf)

May 2nd Thursday.....Sizergh Castle (National Trust).

Cost £ 20pp for National Trust members,£33pp for non members. This includes coach hire,driver's gratuities and entry fee.

June 14th Friday..... Harewood House, Leeds.

Cost £31pp which includes coach hire, driver's gratuities and entry fee .

July 24th WednesdayCoal, Canal & Cake. Walking tour of Bridgewater Canal.

Cost... Depending on the numbers 30 or less.. £11pp but 31 and above which will be in two groups ...£16 pp which includes the guided walk along the canal (fairly flat route) and cake and hot beverage at the end of the walk.

August 6th Tuesday.....Avro Heritage Museum, Woodford, Stockport (to be confirmed).

September 5th ThursdayWentworth Woodhouse, Rotherham.

October 10th Thursday....Glasgow, Rennie Mackintosh and Art Heritage tour .

Roy McCarthy coach tour (4days). Cost...£478.

Booking for the above will be taken from January general meeting onwards.

Crossword Compiled by Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A Crossword Group

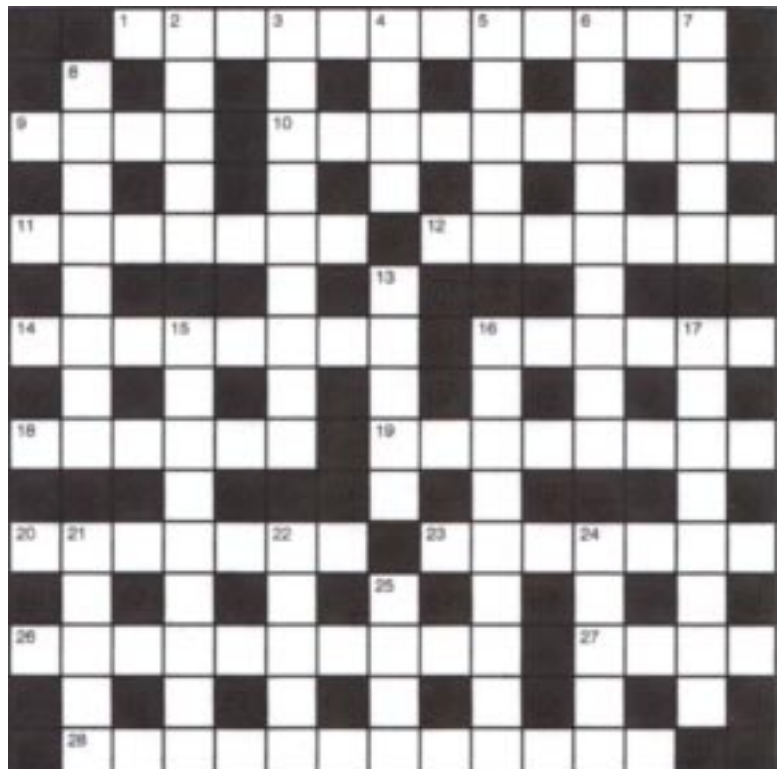
compiled jointly by U3A Crossword Group

Clues across

1. P.S. idea will follow later. (12)
9. Baby rearing facilities include cowshed. (4)
10. Calamitous Truss – Adios! (10)
11. Cocktail makers for religious group. (7)
12. Approves of idiot sent out. (7)
14. No end of sheet music includes one direction repeated and some trimmers. (8)
16. Birdcage arrives through a railway. (6)
18. Rolf goes back home for old coin. (6)
19. I sing in a fashion as a mark of honour. (8)
20. Girl's recreation time provides a big show. (7)
23. Old club a writer must overcome. (7)
26. The state of African oil distribution. (10)
27. Part of a wound initially stays crusted and bruised. (4)
28. No riots again arranged by this society. (12)

Clues Down

2. Spot fellow left on board ship without captain. (5)
3. I wondered about getting a bedspread. (9)
4. Project is to alter small kitchen at the outset. (4)
5. Retreat, organised and staffed, inducing secure beginners. (5)
6. Ginger and Dan cultivating on a plot. (9)
7. Strut about showing confidence. (5)
8. Make believe yacht I'm sailing in. (8)



13. Primarily a savoury product I cook from meat perhaps. (5)
15. Sturdy bandage. (9)
16. Mugger will attack worker. (9)
17. Protective garment bought from angry Croatian. (8)
21. Vision of undeveloped insect. (5)
22. Enhance fuss given to Royal Navy. (5)
24. Young girl has nothing to catch wild horse with. (5)
25. Use your nous to carry out your duty. (4)

Jigsaw Sales at Monthly Meetings.

Please don't bring Jigsaws with pieces missing

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

Derek Hesketh



Derek's close family life in Wigan shaped a lot that made the man. His paternal grandfather always encouraged him to "do better" and grammar school although hard for him from his background, encouraged ambition.

He travelled a lot in his work. Ten years in N. Ireland where the three children were born, but then back to Manchester office. He enjoyed his travels in Japan, Dubai, Indonesia and South America always trying to learn some of the language.

Retirement meant more learning and he went for 4 years for I.T training to keep his mind active he said and then enjoyed his time in U3A.

Although he reached his 90th birthday he died far too soon for him!!! He was aiming for 100.

His family all feel the hole his passing has left.

U3A Open Gardening Group. — Programme January – March 2024

Meetings on 2nd Wednesday of each month at Marple Methodist Hall, 09:45 for coffee then 10:00 for the meeting. All U3A members welcome. £3 per meeting. Do come along.

February 14 Wayne Crumpton – Manchester Bonsai Society

March 13 Trip – Plantagogo Nursery (Specialist Heuchera Growers) / Biddulph Grange

April 10 Peter Clare – Garden Designer. Shade gardening.

Ideas, hints ad tips for shady areas in the garden

Margaret Hogg

Subscribe to the National U3A Magazine "Third Age Matters"

The national U3A magazine, "Third Age Matters" is only available by taking out a personal subscription to receive the magazine by direct mail to your home address.

The subscription must be renewed each year so if you signed up last year, you will need to renew your subscription for 2024/5

To subscribe to the national U3A magazine, please complete the form below and send it, along with a cheque for £3.60 made out to Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A.

Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A

2023/4 Subscription Form for the National Magazine "Third Age Matters"

I would like to receive the Third Age Matters magazine for 2023/4

Title (Mr/Mrs, etc)Name:.....Phone No.....

Address:.....

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.....POST CODE.....

I enclose payment of £3.60 (cheque, made out to Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A).

This will cover all issues published in April, June, September, November 2024 and February 2025

Send your cheque & form to:- u3a Secretary, 15 Lower Strines Road, Marple SK6 7DL

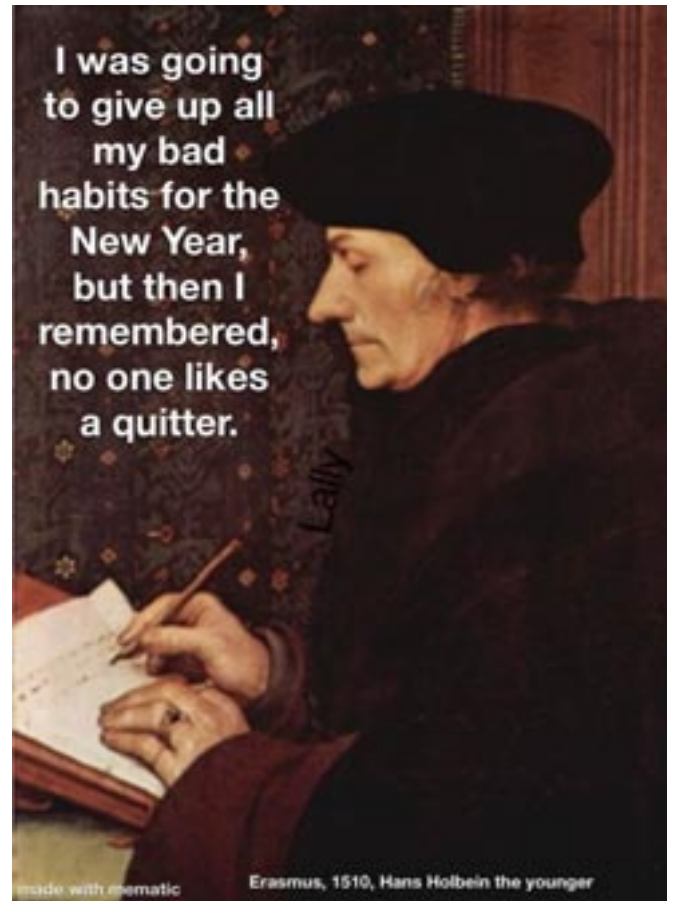
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Book Sales at the Meetings

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.

Crossword Solution
Across: 1. Afterthought 9. Byre 10. Disastrous 11. Shaker
12. Assents 14. Scissors 16. Aviary 18. Florin 19. Insomnia
20. Display 23. Niblick 26. California 27. Scab 28. organisation
Down: 2. Fleck 3. Eiderdown 4. Task 5. Oasis 6. Gardening 7. Trust
8. Mythical 13. Aspic 15. Strapping 16. Assailant 17. Raincoat
21. Imago 22. Adorn 24. Lasso

This Newsletter appears bi-monthly. The next edition will be published in March 2024

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 Friday 1st March at the latest