

Newsletter – March 2024

Chairman's Chit Chat...

The snowdrops have faded and now the daffodils are popping up everywhere. A sure sign of Spring is most welcome I'm sure.

We had a very successful AGM last month especially as Lesley Wright agreed to be our new Secretary and we welcome her to the committee. The meeting was followed by Simon Michael as our speaker who was excellent, and I'm sure we will invite him to speak again later in the year. We also managed to recruit another member, Lesley Barlow to be the Outings Treasurer replacing Kath Leigh.



The committee will again strive to provide the members with a full programme of events throughout the year and hope you will participate in the various events on offer. We also like to get your feedback as to how we work and want you to tell us what you would like to add/change etc., Constructive criticism is always welcome.

To encourage members to join the various groups, I will invite the various Group Leaders to give a 5 minute presentation at the general meetings to speak about their particular group and hopefully sign up new members. Any suggestions about a new group is always welcome, especially if that person is willing to run it as well.

I look forward to acting as your Chair this year, and feel free to contact me if and when you have a problem or suggestion.

Diane Holker

Update: I know it's a little bit early, but I have started putting food out for Hector (the Hedgehog) in case he comes out of hibernation early. I will keep you posted.

Notices & other News Items

MEMBERSHIP 2024

If you have not got your Membership Card for 2024 already, please collect it from the Membership Desk before you book in. If you have not renewed your Membership please go to the Membership Desk and renew today.

Marple Bridge & Mellor u3a Meetings Speakers

21st March	Marilyn Gregory	A Talk on Leprosy, a history of the disease and how it still affects people
April 18th	Greg Kelly	St. Anne's Hospice –Greg will talk about his fundraising & the work of the hospice
May 16th	Ian Cheeseman	From Amateur to Professional – his life as a BBC sports presenter



2024 sees the 20th year since the formation of Marple Bridge & Mellor u3a

We are looking for ideas as to how we can celebrate the occasion some time later in the year.

We are asking all members to give us their suggestions for ways in which we should do this.

Please put your thinking caps on and come up with suggestions as to how we can celebrate the anniversary.

Please give your suggestions to any of the committee members within the next three weeks so that the committee can discuss them at their next meeting on 9th April and formulate a plan.

Message received from MARPLE DEMENTIA DROP-IN

We were delighted to welcome representatives from the Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A to one of our weekly Drop-in sessions, Its Chair, Diane Holker, and Membership Secretary, Malcolm Moss, visited us to present a lovely donation of £712.30.



This marvellous sum was raised by the MBM U3A members in various ways including jigsaw and book sales at their monthly general meetings, and also a cake stall, tombolas, raffles and more at their annual August charity event.

Daine said "Each year we choose a local charity or good cause to receive the funds our members raise. The Marple Dementia Drop-in was a popular choice and we are delighted to present this cheque to support the activities it provides."

We thank the Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A (MBM U3A) warmly for this generous donation.

The U3A, or University of the Third Age, provides opportunities for those no longer in work to come together and learn for fun. The Marple Bridge and Mellor group has 26 different interest groups including badminton, walking, poetry, crown green bowling, reading, outings, photography and more. There is something for everyone.

It holds a monthly meeting in St Paul's Church Hall in Compstall, on the third Thursday of each month. That's a great place to find out more about what is on offer. You can also check out its website here for more information on all the activities.

The group is now actively seeking new members. Why not take a look and open up new doors?

Anne Frazer

Members who are Unwell or in Hospital

So often we hear about members who have been ill, who have been in hospital or need abit of cheering up, weeks after it has happened so if you know someone like this please let Olwyn Wych (almoner@mbmu3a.org.uk or 0161 285 6766) know, or any member of the committee, so that we can send a little card to let them know we are thinking of them.

Strolling Group

Our "Strolling Group" is open for all 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 morning in the month commencing at 10.30am, unless otherwise stated.



Tuesday 5th March – Sunny day to reward our strollers as we walked along the banks of the River Goyt.

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

Don't forget your bus pass in case we need to ride back! Bring a drink over the summer months! Please wear appropriate footwear in case it is wet underfoot.

We have quite a large group of members who join us for a variety of strolls exploring different places around our area and the surrounding countryside. We benefit from outside exercise as well as joining in enjoyable social occasions.

Tuesday April 2nd – Ursula Southon

Meet in the carpark at Etherow Lake. To leave at 10.30am.

Stroll around the lake with a possible extension at the far end, depending on the weather conditions.

Join us for some refreshments at the café near the car park

Tuesday May 7th – Jenny Summers

10.40am. Meet outside Costa Coffee for the 10.40am bus to Mellor (BUS PASS)

11.00am Walk up Boggard Road (tarmac and a gentle climb) to the Cross and return along Black Lane and Primrose Lane to pick up the return bus at 1.00pm Suitable clothing, walking sticks and a drink recommended. May be muddy underfoot on return.

Enjoy a drink with us back in one of the cafes in Marple.

Tuesday June 4th – Gail Dixon

Meet in the centre of Romiley by the entrance to the park. To leave at 10.30am.

Stroll through the park to Romiley Golf Course. Follow the path across the golf course and head for Sandy Lane. Return to Romiley centre.

Enjoy a cuppa and something to eat in one of the cafes in Romiley.

Tuesday July 2nd – Peter Warburton and Judy Dunham

Open Garden Group

All U3A members welcome. £3 per meeting. Do come along.

April 10 Peter Clare – Garden Designer. Shade gardening. Ideas, hints and tips for shady areas in the garden

May 8 Trip – Bluebell Cottage Gardens (Sue Beesley) / Tatton Park

June 12 Sarah Haisley – Sweet Pea Society
Sarah's presentation will be followed by seeds for sale.



Dining Group

By the time you read this we will have been to the Spread Eagle on the 12th of this month.

April Wednesday 10th

The New Istanbul Grill in Marple. Two Course Evening Meal for £18

Bookings will be taken at the March meeting.

May Thursday 16th

The Wycliffe Hotel and Restaurant, Edgeley Road Stockport.

Two Course Evening Meal for £26 including Tea or Regular Coffee

(Please note that you may bring your own alcohol, but soft drinks must be bought at the bar.)

Bookings will also be taken at the March meeting.

June Wednesday 19th

Peruga at Mellor and Townscliffe Golf Club

We have booked an Afternoon Tea for £15

Bookings will be taken at the April Meeting

You can now pay for your meals by Bank Transfer details below.

Make payable to MB&M Dining

Account number 16583188 Sort code 16 00 30

Pat Walker

Outings Group

The weather appears to have improved since the first of March ie the rain has stopped and the sun is sunny. Hope this makes you want to come out to explore near and far.

Those of us booked to visit Spain later this month, don't forget to pre book to visit "Alcazar Palace in Seville" on the afternoon of the third day or on the fourth day of the holiday.

On Tuesday the 16th of April we are booked to visit " World of Glass museum" in St Helens. As there are only twelve members signed up for this outing at the time of writing this newsletter, it isn't viable to hire a coach for the day. So the plan is for three cars to drive to St Helens (just over 1 hr drive away) unless more members sign up in the next few weeks !!

May the 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 the 7th Friday..... Harewood House, Leeds. Cost £31pp which includes coach hire, driver's gratuities and entry fee .

July Wednesday the 24th of July.....Coal, 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.

Please welcome Lesley Barlow who has stepped up to be the new treasurer for the outings group.

Thank you also to Kath Leigh who assisted the outings group as a treasurer over the last few years.

Hazel Bhatt



CONTACTS

Chairman: Diane Holker

chairman@mbmu3a.org.uk

Vice Chairman: Clare Gwilym

vicechairman@mbmu3a.org.uk

Secretary: Lesley Wright

secretary@mbmu3a.org.uk

Treasurer: Michael Dewhurst

treasurer@mbmu3a.org.uk

Group Co-ordinator: Sue Norcross

groupcoordinator@mbmu3a.org.uk

Membership Secretaries: Colin Burkitt and
Malcolm Moss

Speaker Organiser: Clare Gwilym

speakerorganiser1@mbmu3a.org.uk

Almoner: Olwyn Wych

almoner@mbmu3a.org.uk

Assistant Almoner: Pat Walker

assistantalmoner@mbmua.org.uk

Newsletter Editor: Malcolm Moss

newslettereditor@mbmu3a.org.uk

Outings: Hazel Bhatt

Lesley Barlow

outings@mbmu3a.org.uk

Systems Manager: Kath Leigh

systemsmanager@mbmu3a.org.uk

Other Committee Members

Shirley Hammond, Sue Norcross & Ulla Mehta

Website: www.mbm3a.org.uk

National Website:
www.u3a.org.uk

National Office:

The Third Age Trust
52 Lant Street,
London, SE1 1RB



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.

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.

Newsletter items

Thank you to the people who have submitted articles for inclusion in past Newsletters, *can we 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 let's try to make the Newsletter more interesting for all our readers.

Apologies from the Crossword Group who have not met recently so there is no entry this month. The article will be back

This Newsletter appears bi-monthly. The next edition will be published in May 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 3rd May at the latest