



A Happy and Prosperous New Year to all our members

## Chairman's Chatter

I hope that all of you enjoyed your Christmas and New Year celebrations. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a healthy and prosperous New Year. Also I'd like to give a special thank you to all group leaders, members of the committee and anyone who has helped in any way in MBMU3A over this last year. If, like me, you are wondering what happened to 2015 it possibly means that we have been living life to the full and enjoying so many different aspects of the U3A. It seems strange now writing 2016 on everything. However, as the days go by we will soon get used to it. This year is a leap year so any of you who were born on February 29th will be able to celebrate your birthday. Theoretically you won't be old enough to join the U3A, but I'm sure we'd be able to make an exception for you!

Our Christmas celebration was very successful, with delicious food, enjoyable entertainment and of course excellent company. Thank you to all who attended and helped to make it a great celebration. Once again I received many compliments regarding the food and the entertainment. If any of you have ideas for next Christmas please let any of the committee know and we can discuss them.

Chris Brooks has for many years arranged the speakers for our monthly meetings and she has decided to step down and pass the role to someone else. I'm sure you all agree with me that she has arranged a varied selection of excellent speakers. With member of MBMU3A coming from such different backgrounds this is not an easy task, but I feel that she has been very successful. On behalf of all our members I would like to thank Chris for her hard work in organising these speakers. Ulla Mehta, one of the committee members, has agreed to take over the role.

Membership renewal is due this month so please fill in the form, attached to the November newsletter, if you haven't already done so and send it to the Membership Secretary.

*Shirley Hammond*

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## Annual General Meeting - 16th February 2016

The committee has made the following proposal to be voted on at the AGM:

The position of committee member is held for 3 years with the option to extend for another 3 years, whereas at present the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman are held for 2 years. The committee propose that the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman should fall in line with the other positions and henceforth be held for 3 years.

Any questions you wish to raise in 'Any Other Business' at the AGM must be submitted, in writing, to the secretary at least 2 weeks before the AGM, i.e. February 2nd, to allow for any necessary research for information.

The meeting will begin as usual at 10.15am with a speaker and the AGM Business Meeting will follow at 11.15am. Details of the Agenda are in this newsletter.

*Shirley Hammond*

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## Reminder - Membership Renewal 2016

Those members who have not yet renewed may do so at the monthly meeting on 19th January or alternatively send the completed form, cheque and a stamped addressed envelope for the return of the membership card to:- Membership Secretary, 5 Highfield Road, Marple, SK6 7NG

Please note we only post out the Newsletter to members if they attach 6 stamped addressed envelopes, size 230mm x 160mm (A5)

## Outings Group

Another successful outing in December was arranged for us to Barton Grange Garden Centre for Christmas ideas and then on to Ferraris for the usual excellent lunch; many thanks to the organisers, Renee and Rita, for organising this - it is much appreciated.

**Thursday 28th January 2016**

**ELEVATIONS RESTAURANT** at Stockport College followed by audio guided tour of **STAIRCASE HOUSE**, Stockport Market.

This outing is fully booked with a waiting list for cancellations.

We will take bookings for 2 outings at the JANUARY GENERAL MEETING (19TH Jan.) as follows:

**Monday 7th March 2016 -**

**VISIT TO MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL  
WITH A GUIDED TOUR**

followed by a soup and sandwich lunch at **CHETHAMS SCHOOL OF MUSIC,  
CONCERT & TOUR**



Transport: suggested travel by train and metro. We are happy to meet at the Information Desk in Piccadilly station if any one wishes to go as a group to the Cathedral. Otherwise meet at the main Cathedral entrance in good time for the 10.45 a.m. tour.

Price: £16.50 p.p. including small gratuities.

Booking : January General meeting and thereafter please ring organisers

*Organisers: Jenny & George Summers (427 2861).*

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*In order to book the following we need to confirm a minimum number, therefore,*

**Tuesday 26th April 2016 - CITY CENTRE LUNCH CRUISE** (on the Lowry Explorer)

Once again we are happy to meet at the Information Desk, Piccadilly station, to travel down to Castlefield (opposite the Museum of Science and Industry) by shuttle bus otherwise meet at the Castlefield docking point at 11.30 a.m. for prompt departure.

We cruise to The Lowry, Salford, whilst enjoying a freshly prepared lunch served on board (starters and main course on outward journey, pudding and tea/coffee on return - see notice board for menu). There is an hour or so to explore The Quays, with perhaps the L.S. Lowry exhibition or indulge in a spot of retail therapy in the Outlet Centre, before returning through Poloma Docks to Castlefield - a four hour trip with captain's commentary.

Price: £24.00 p.p. including gratuity.

Booking : January General Meeting and thereafter please ring the organisers

*Organisers: Jenny & George Summers (427 2861).*

# Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A Open Gardening Group

The unseasonal warm weather means that some plants are racing to send up their shoots, but the leaves have been blown off the trees and mostly the gardens have gone to sleep for the winter so it is time once again for the Gardening Group to offer ideas for the programme for 2016, which they did in a lively AGM and Planning meeting in November. Take a look at what is on offer - there is sure to be much to interest you.

The December meeting was our Christmas get-together over coffee and mince pies. Lots of laughter intermingled with discussions on what answers to put for the quizzes - Which leaf came off which tree produced a lot of both! A lively meeting to draw our gardening year to a close.

*Jean Parrish*

## OPEN GARDENING GROUP - PROGRAMME JANUARY 2016 - DECEMBER 2016

Meeting 2nd Wednesday of the month at Marple Methodist Hall, Church Lane, Marple. 9.45 a.m for coffee and 10.00 for the meeting. £2 per meeting (includes coffee etc). Please note - there is NO Meeting on Outing days.

January 13 - Restoration of Tatton Park Kitchen Garden. Illustrated talk by David Tipper talks about this fascinating project from its instigation.

February 10 - Plants for Bees in the Garden. Plantsman Anthony Norman will show us the plants the Bees actually like, rather than what we think they like!

March 9 - Plants for Difficult Places. Peter Foley, plantsman and BBC Radio broadcaster helps us turn those bare or weedy patches into Paradise!

April 13 - Foliage Matters. Create rhythm, continuity and longlasting interest throughout the year. Maureen Sawyer will offer us her personal selections.

May 11 - Outing

June 8 - Euphorbias and Other Vibrant Perennials. Entertaining and knowledgeable speaker Don Witton - holder of the National Collection Euphorbia - tells us about these and other seasonal flowering perennials.

July 13 - Outing

August 10 - Horticultural Show. Show us what busy bees you have been this summer!

September 14 - Outing

October 12 - To prune or not to prune? David Bielowski guides us on the Why? behind the When? of pruning, relating garden maintenance to the climate.

November 9 - AGM and Planning

December 14 - Christmas meeting. Coffee, mince pies, fun and games.

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## Walking Group

*Group Organisers/Co-ordinators*

*Judy Rhodes - 0161 427 2045*

*Sue Ward - 0161 312 1621*

## Feb/Mar Walks

Wed Feb 3rd	Strines/New Mills	5/6m	mod	Wendy Greenwood
Tue Feb 9th	Local	5m	easy/mod	Irene Riley
Wed Feb 17th	Chinley	5.5m	mod	Judith Lynch
Tues Feb 23rd	Whaley Bridge	5.5m	mod	Margaret Hogg
Wed March 2nd	Samual Oldknow walk	4/5m	easy	Sheila Stafford
Tue March 8th	Lantern Pike	6m	mod	Val and Roy Bradshaw
Wed March 16th	Sale Water Park	5.5m	very easy	Jean Mitchel
Tue March 22nd	Lindow Common/Styal	6m	mod	Sue Ward
Wed Mar 30th	Roman Lakes/Cobden Edge	5m	mod	Judy Rhodes

**New walkers please contact Judy or Sue before attending a walk.**

## MATINEE GROUP

### Theatre Visits

Saturday 27 th February at 2.30 in the the Carver Theatre Marple -  
Busybodies By Jack Popperwell.

Wednesday 23rd. March at the Bolton Octagon  
Martha, Josie and the Chinese Elvis - a comedy by Charlotte Jones

Wednesday 13th. April at 2pm in the Lyric Theatre - Lowry  
Breakfast at Tiffany's - adaptation by Richard Greenburgh

*As cheques are not always presented to the bank straight away, it is important to let us know if you have changed your bank account. If your cheque has not been paid in before this change, a charge can be incurred to the Matinee Group Bank Account. So please let us know of any changes, Thank you.*

*Jean Howells & Sue Humphris*



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## DINING GROUP

Thank you to Ann and Bill Prophet for organising the Christmas dinner at Alma Lodge.  
Plenty of good food and even better company.

### Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 10th February. Dinner at Reflections Ashton Catering Collage  
Three Courses plus Tea or Coffee £10  
Bookings will be taken at the January Meeting

Wednesday 16th March. Dinner at Joshua Bradley Restaurant, Gee Cross, Hyde  
Three Courses plus Tea or Coffee £13.50  
Bookings will be taken at the February Meeting.

A £5 cash deposit to secure your reservation for all dining group experiences will be required at the time of booking which is non-refundable.



*Pat Walker*

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## Around the Groups

In each newsletter we will feature 1 or 2 groups that are part of our U3A

### Reading Group 2.

We meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 2pm generally at my house in Marple and read a varied selection of books provided by Stockport Library.

Recently we've read and discussed 'Brideshead Revisited', by Evelyn Waugh, 'The Cats Table' by Michael Ondaatje, and 'The Invention of Wings' by Sue Monk Kidd. .

*Mary England*

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## CD's / DVD's

The CD's / DVD's which we have on sale at the monthly meetings need to be up-dated with different ones, so please can we ask for some more contributions to the stall, so that we can replace some of the existing ones with more up to date ones.

Please have a look at your collection and see if you can bring some along to the next monthly meeting.

*Jean Parker & Barbara Littler*

# Crossword Compiled by Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A Crossword Group

Geoff Heath

## Clues across

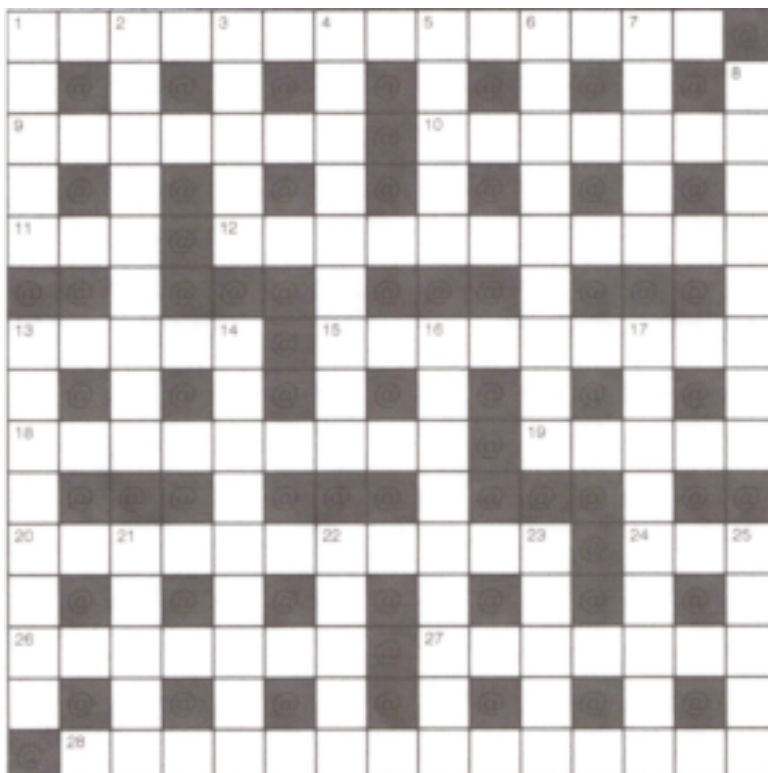
- 1 Foolishly stray on thin ice? That happened ages ago! (7,7)  
 9 Underwriter more certain after being at home (7)  
 10 House for Chancellor (7)  
 11 Before being confined in Hereford (3)  
 12 This person is a fibber or sly letter compiler (11)  
 13 First Scottish Co-op was a terrific bit of news (5)  
 15 Kind Ian in trouble with drawing material (6,3)  
 18 Masters arranged some cover (9)  
 19 I take turn about Italian city (5)  
 20 Gets control of bodily firmness with important foundation (11)  
 24 Draw odd tribe (3)  
 26 Dog searching for drugs if ferns get disturbed (7)  
 27 Previous partner dealt badly and was placed in high position (7)  
 28 Molly feared owl when playing this children's game (6,2,6)

## Clues down

- 1 Olive beheaded although first put in front and certainly not dead (5)  
 2 Donkey included in Creole stew (9)  
 3 Noblemen have gems without original polish (5)  
 4 Mistake mist swirling around for violence (9)  
 5 Welsh boy with unknown piece of elephant's tusk (5)  
 6 Condiment is latest lab invention (5,4)  
 7 Original route using roads and lanes in the countryside (5)

## Clues down (cont)

- 8 Breaks in to spoil soldier's hat (8)  
 13 Is sitcom performed with indifference to pain? (8)  
 14 A lot of loose change, maybe, muddling up folk etc (9)  
 16 A Eureka moment record done by an unknown (9)  
 17 Annoyed, Rita tried (9)  
 21 Start running hard if native offends this animal (5)  
 22 A sucker for a drink (5)  
 23 Strike out a seer; phoney! (5)  
 25 Tree of higher rank? (5)



## Meetings - FUTURE SPEAKERS

- 19th January Alan Stanbridge " The People of the Omo Valley"  
 16th February Julie Sutton " New Pension Options from April 2015"  
 15th March Pauline West " Keeping the Zest in your life"

*Unless otherwise notified, the ordinary monthly meetings are held in St Paul's Church Hall, Compstall on the third Tuesday of each month at 9-45am (for coffee and socializing). To enable members to use the bus service, the business of the meeting will start at 10-15 and will finish at 11.45 am approx.*

- \* *When attending a meeting please have your entrance fee ready (£1) preferably in exact money*
- \* *You should show your membership card when booking in at the monthly meetings and at U3A groups and other events.*
- \* *Please do not park near the War Memorial, use the Etherow Country Car Park*
- \* *Please remember to bring and buy books and C.D's at the monthly meetings.*

## CONTACTS

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Clare Gwilym (co-opted)

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**National Office:**

The Third Age Trust

The Old Municipal Buildings

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## Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A

### Notice of Annual General Meeting Tuesday 16th February 2016

St Paul's Church Hall, Compstall  
10-15 Speaker - 11-15 Business Meeting

#### AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2015 AGM
3. Chairman's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Accounts
6. Election of Committee Members
7. Members Annual Subscription
8. Amendment to the Constitution
9. Any Other Business
10. Votes of Thanks
11. Formal Conclusion of the AGM

Crossword Solution  
Across 1 Ancient history; 9 Insurer; 10 Osborne; 11 Ere;  
12 Storyteller; 13 Scoop; 15 Indian ink; 18 Overcomes;  
19 Turin; 20 Cornerstone; 24 Tie; 26 Sniffer; 27 Exalted;  
28 Follow my Leader  
Down: 1 Alive; 2 Casserole; 3 Earls; 4 Terrorism; 5 Ivory;  
6 Table salt; 7 Rural; 8 Bearskin; 13 Stoicism; 14  
Pocketful; 16 Discovery; 17 Irritated; 21 Rhino; 22 Straw;  
23 Erase; 25 Elder.

This Newsletter appears bi-monthly. The next edition will be published March 2016

Please send items for publication by email or disc in Microsoft Word.

to Malcolm Moss, Email: [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 no later than Friday, 4th March**

# 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 2016\17.

To subscribe to the national U3A magazine, please complete the form below and send it, along with a cheque for £2.25, made out to Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A.

Send your cheque & form to: MB&M U3A, Membership Secretary, 5 Highfield Rd, Marple, SK6 7NG

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Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A

2016\17 Subscription Form for the National Magazine "Third Age Matters"

I would like to receive the Third Age Matters magazine for 2016\17.

Title (Mr/Mrs, etc) .....Name: .....

Address: .....

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

Telephone No.....

I enclose payment of £2.25 (preferably cheque, made out to Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A).  
This will cover all issues published in February April, June, September and November 2016

Send your cheque & form to the Membership Secretary, 5 Highfield Road, Marple, SK6 7NG.

If you should change your address, you must notify the Membership Secretary otherwise the magazine will continue to be sent to your old address.

Signed:..... Date: .....