

Chairman's chatter

I hope you have had an enjoyable time over the Easter period. The weather has certainly been beautiful and I'm sure many of you have been out in the garden doing the "spring chores" or simply relaxing and enjoying the colours of spring.

We are still looking for people to work alongside us to develop our Marple Bridge and Mellor website. You don't need to be web site savvy, just interested in helping set up a useable and informative website. Anyone who would like more information should contact Malcolm Moss or myself.

One of the things that attracts many people to join our U3A is the variety of groups available. These are arranged and run by ordinary members just like you. Arranging a group may feel a little challenging at first but everyone pulls together to make it a sociable, and sometimes, educational experience. We are always looking for new groups and I'm sure there are many of you who have interests that they could share with others. Committee members are always willing to assist in setting up a group. Please contact our Group coordinator, or one of the committee for a chat and lets get an even wider variety of groups.

Shirley Hammond

Outings

SHREWSBURY FLOWER SHOW Friday 12th August 2011



This wonderful show has something for everyone. For gardeners the marquees have spectacular displays from professionals and amateurs, information from many plant and horticultural societies and celebrity gardener, Chris Beardshaw, will be on hand for practical advice on growing your own vegetables.

The main arena has such events as The Royal Artillery Flying Gunners motor cycle display team, performances by the Band of 1066 Pipes & Drums together with the Knights of the Damned Jousting stunt team; top class show jumping and displays by the Shropshire Bee Keepers Association - and many others.

In the Bandstand the bands of HM Coldstream Guards and Royal Signals will perform and in the Food Hall celebrity chef Gino D'Acampo gives demonstrations together with other talented chefs.

And the price for this wonderful day out? A mere £30 per head including show entrance fee, coach travel and driver's gratuity.

Following a comfort stop en-route we plan to arrive at the Show late morning for members to take lunch in one of the many catering facilities. Or of course bring a picnic and sit in one of the beautiful gardens in the show ground.

We shall leave Rose Hill 8.30 am, Regent Cinema 8.35am, Marple Bridge 8.40am,
Northumberland Arms 8.45am and Romiley Arms 8.50am

Bookings will be taken at the May and June meetings.
Organiser Mrs Sue Humphris.

HISTORY GROUP OUTING

A trip along the **Manchester Ship Canal** from Salford Quays to the National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port, has been arranged by the History Group on Sunday, 24th July 2011 leaving Salford at 10.00a.m. Shared car transport to the Quays available on request. (5 hour trip with Blue Guide commentary plus 2 hours at the Museum)

Light refreshments and drinks available on board and at Museum, or bring a picnic. Return by coach to Salford for approx. 6.00p.m.

Cost: £37.00 per person (group concessionary rates)

Cheques payable to MBMU3A (Outings) on or before May general meeting please.

Contact *J. Summers* for further details



A visit to CASTLE HOWARD, YORK

Thursday, 1st September 2011

Charles Howard, 3rd Earl of Carlisle (1669-1738) asked the playwright John Vanbrugh to build him a new house in 1699. The astonishing collaboration that followed produced one of England's grandest stately homes. Renowned for its architecture, rich collections and superb landscaping, Castle Howard is still the home of the Howard family.

The House tour starts in the West Wing and visitors are free to progress through the magnificent rooms at their own pace. There are friendly Guides located throughout who are ready to answer questions and talk in more depth. Wheelchair access is available to most of the House and grounds and free transport is provided up to the House where necessary. In 1981 Granada Television filmed Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited* here and this confirmed Castle Howard's enormous popularity with the public. Free outdoor tours are scheduled from the Boar Garden at regular intervals. Refreshments are available at a choice of Cafes: the self-service Fitzroy Room, the Lakeside Café and the bistro-style Courtyard Café.

We hope you are able to join us and pickups will be as follows:-

Rose Hill 8.00a.m. Regent Cinema 8.05 a.m. Marple Bridge 8.10 a.m.

Northumberland Arms 8.15 a.m. Romiley Arms 8.20 a.m.

Coffee stop: Hartshead Moor Services on M62

Price: £24.50 p.p, includes coach, driver's gratuity and entrance cheque payable to MBMU3A (Outings)

BOOKINGS TAKEN AT 21ST JUNE MEETING

Jenny & George Summers

DINING CLUB

We had a thoroughly enjoyable lunch at Reflections, Ashton-Under-Lyne, which was very well organised by Jenny and George Summers. Also, our visit to The Pack Horse, New Mills, organised by Joyce & Malcolm Moss, was well attended and enjoyed by everybody. Chris and Pauline Neilson organized a lunch at The Hallmark Hotel, Handforth where we had an excellent meal and were made very welcome by all the staff.

Thank you to all Dining Club volunteers for their tireless hard work in arranging these events for everybody to enjoy.

Forthcoming Events

Wenna and Derek Jackson have organised a dinner on Thursday, 9th June 2011 at The Maple Tree, Marple Bridge which is a Chinese restaurant. Several courses will be available, finishing with coffee or tea for £16.50. Bookings will be taken at the May general meeting when a menu will be available.

If you would like to join us, please sign the relevant form(s) at the general meetings when sample menus will be available for you to see.

Please note that numbers are limited purely because we are restricted by either the room size or the management's ability to cope with a given number. Therefore, please book as soon as the reservation list is available at the general meetings.

A dinner has been booked at The Moorfield, Rowarth on Wednesday, 20th July 2011 which will be £16.50 including tea or coffee. Bookings will be taken at the General Meeting in June.

Please note that in future whenever it is necessary to take a deposit for Dining Club venues cash deposits only will be accepted.

Ann Prophet

Holiday Group - Malta

On 27th Sunday February twelve members of the Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A flew from Manchester Airport for an eight days holiday break to the Island of Malta. For some it was the first time in Malta for others second or third time.

Weather wise on arrival we got the tail end of Mediterranean storm - high seas and quite windy. Then after the first few days things settled down the sun came out the temperature went up and we all breathed a sigh of relief.

Organised visits were to the sister island of Gozo and to Mdina and Rabat. Also to a great bustling Sunday market located at the harbour side in the small fishing village of Marsaxlokk in the south of Malta. Lots of fresh local Mediterranean fish, fresh vegetables and local produce all mixed together with the sounds and smells to make a great market atmosphere at a great spot and a great day out.

We travelled around on the local yellow painted bone shaker British made buses, all at least 30 years old. Some if they are a day must be 50 years old! Each bus owned by it's driver and each providing frequent low cost transport all over the island. Quite an experience and a good addition to the character of Malta.

All of us visited Valletta the capital of Malta several times during our holiday to see and listen to the story of this magnificent ancient fortified city and it's harbour. Luck had it our visit was before the start of lent and so it was Carnival Time! Magnificent coloured exhibition floats, beautiful coloured costumes, music, children dancing and then fireworks - a world away from the pancake we get at home on Shrove Tuesday !



Map Reading

The fourth group of map readers are coming to the end of their course and are, hopefully, more confident than at the start. Apart from learning the basics of map reading they have each led a walk of their own choice as well as following given walks in unknown areas. The photograph shows the group at Saddleworth Church which they 'found' with ease. Shown are Judy, Carole, Pat, Anne, Wendy and Bill.

Matinee Group

Sweeney Todd by Hugh Wheeler Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim - Jun18th.2011 at the Bolton Octagon

The Admiral Crichton by J M Barrie - Saturday, July 30th.at the New Vic, Newcastle - under- Lyne booking this month -

As You Like it - Wednesday 3rd August at The Royal Exchange (No coach)

My Fair Lady - Saturday, 29th October at the Plaza Theatre, Stockport booking June/July

Jean Howells & Sue Humphries



Sorry to announce - but the **Discussion Group** has died (again).

This was due to a lack of interest from the U3A members. It re-started a year ago with 10 members but now has only 4-5 regulars.

These would be happy to join a similar group if there is anyone able to set up a new group later in the year

Walking Group

June - July 2011 Walks

Wed 1 June	5 miles	Easy	Tues 28 June	5Miles	Easy/Mod
	Reddish Vale			Local – Bus Passes	
	Agnes Barlow			Margaret Hogg	
Tues 7 June	5 miles	Easy	Weds 6 July	5 miles	Easy/Mod
	Local			Castleton(D)	
	Doreen Scotte			Agnes Barlow	
	Shirley Molloy		Tues 12 July	4.5 Miles	Easy
Weds 15 June	6 miles	Mod		New Mills	
	Hope (D)			Wendy Greenwood	
	Irene Riley		Weds 20 July	6 miles	Mod
Weds 22 June	4 miles	Easy		Edale Valley (D)	
	Hare Hill – Nat Trust Cards			Sheila Stafford	
	Pam Bluhm		Tues 26 July	6/7 miles	Mod
				Poynton/Lyme Park	
				Judy Rhodes	

Crossword Compiled by Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A Crossword Group

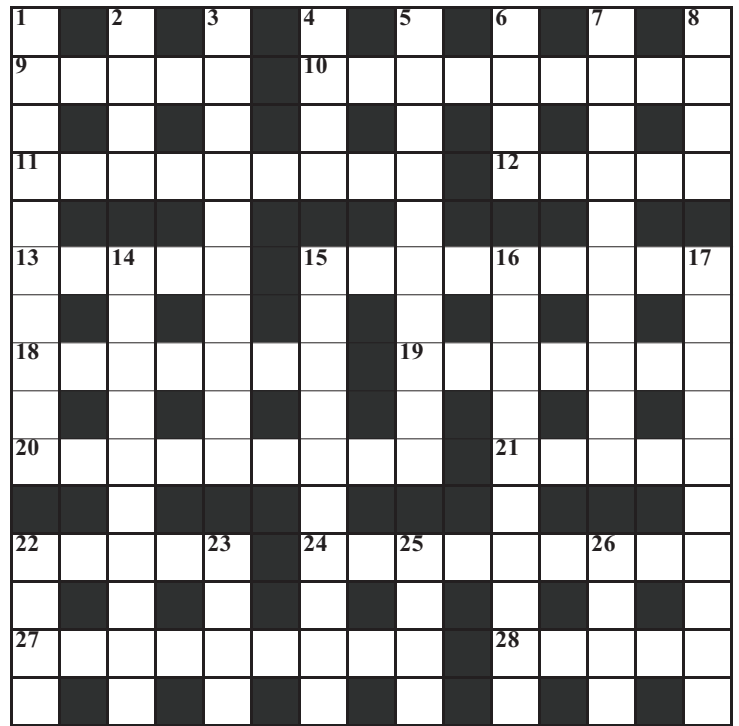
Geoff Heath

Clues across

- 9 She could be in charge in time (5)
 10 Compass I'd thrown out was erratic (9)
 11 Not giving way to beast in trouble (9)
 12 Tangle among neat wisteria (5)
 13 Waste time upsetting lady about end of April (5)
 15 Name written in car diagram (9)
 18 Temporary minister, upset after losing first part
 of sermon (7)
 19 Broadcast attack – it's a bombing mission (3,4)
 20 Press dial erratically for spreading of seeds (9)
 21 Oh! Ask about the military hat (5)
 22 Clever sting (5)
 24 Instrument chairman played, including the
 beginning of overture (9)
 27 Left new tree in shed out of the wind (9)
 28 Blair is highly motivated protecting the Celts (5)

Clues down

- 1 Transfer an employee temporarily and take turns
 with renewed energy (6,4)
 2 His original sin – do we hear sound of serpent?
 (4)
 3 Where our relatives hang from the branches after
 Emily exploded! (6,4)
 4 Discover a Siamese cat's progeny all over the
 continent (4)
 5 History of correspondence reveals evidence of
 litter lout (5,5)
 6 Leave out some of bedroom items (4)
 7 Another distant drum is sounded as Beauty and
 Beast arrive first in Ethiopian city (5,5)



Clues down (cont)

- 8 Race-course not opening for Northerner (4)
 14 Reseat lout displaced by lover of luxury (5,5)
 15 Poem haters spoiled the ambience of the p(10)
 16 Copy corgis spinning with a stabilising action(10)
 17 Spa resort – route you first take for a water cure(10)
 22 Silk and satin have originally made ceremonial
 ribbon (4)
 23 Gallery's brief thank-you note (4)
 25 Road noise travelled (4)
 26 Bird tucked into a Garibaldi biscuit (4)

Meetings - FUTURE SPEAKERS

- 17th May Peter Ashburner "Flog It" a talk about antiques.
- 21st June Margaret Curry "All Things Bright & Beautiful" a guided tour from creatures great and small to the wonders of outer space, plus a few things the hymn writer never thought of.
- 19th July Alan Nolan "Ancient Feet" a funny tale of five men in their sixties undertaking the 'Coast to Coast Walk

Unless otherwise notified, the ordinary monthly meetings are held in St Paul's Church Hall, Compstall on the third Tuesday of each month at 10am (for coffee and socialising). To enable members to use the bus service, the business of the meeting will start at 10.20 and will finish at 11.50am approx. Helpers are always needed as welcomers, refreshment rota, committee members, screen erection etc. Please let the person on the information desk know if you are able to help

CONTACTS

Chairman: Shirley Hammond
chairman@mbmu3a.org.uk

Vice Chairman: Malcolm Moss
vicechairman@mbmu3a.org.uk

Secretary: Anne Eade 0161
secretary@mbmu3a.org.uk

Treasurer: Peter Kitchen
treasurer@mbmu3a.org.uk

Group Co-ordinator: Marion Eyers
GroupCoordinator@mbmu3a.org.uk

Membership Secretary: Carol Rice
membershipsecretary@mbmu3a.org.uk

Speaker Organiser: Chris Brooke
speakerorganiser@mbmu3a.org.uk

Almoner: Ann Prophet
almoner@mbmu3a.org.uk

Newsletter Editor: Malcolm Moss
newslettereditor2010@mbmu3a.org.uk

Outings: Ann & Tony Matthews
Outings@mbmu3a.org.uk

Other Committee Members

Diane Holker, Bill Prophet & Kitty Watt

Webmaster:

Peter Kress

webmaster@mbmu3a.org.uk

Website: www.mbmu3a.org.uk

e-mail: webmaster@mbmu3a.org.uk

National Website: www.u3a.org.uk

National Office:

The Third Age Trust

The Old Municipal Buildings

19, East Street, Bromley Kent, BR1 1QE

020 8466 6139

Wimbledon Trip

The balance for Wimbledon is due by 27May. I am unable to attend the May meeting, so, please send cheques made out to Newmarket Travel to me by 24 May or alternatively telephone Newmarket Travel on 020 8335 4911 if you wish to pay by credit/debit card.

Total cost: £189.00 pp deposit £30 so balance due =£159.00 plus single supplement £20.00

Marple U3A Art Group

There are vacancies in a new art group which is held fortnightly (next meeting May 20th) on Friday mornings from 9.45 to 12.45 at Hawk Green Readings Rooms, Hibbert Lane, Marple.

Beginners or experienced artists welcome - any medium.

Contact Cyril Lewis
for more details

Crossword Solution
Across: 9 Erica; 10 Spasmotic; 11 Obstinate; 12 Twist; 13 Dally; 15 Autograph; 18 Interim; 19 Air raid; 20 Dispersal; 21 Shako; 22 Smart; 24 Harmonica; 27 Sheltered; 28 Irish.
Down: 1 Second wind; 2 Hiss; 3 Family tree; 4 Asia; 5 Paper trail; 6 Omit; 7 Addis Ababa; 8 Scot; 14 Lotus eater; 15 Atmosphere; 16 Gyroscopic; 17 Hydrophathy; 22 Sash; 23 Fate; 25 Rode; 26 Ibis.

This Newsletter appears bi-monthly. The next edition will be published July 2011

Please send items for publication by email or disc in Microsoft Word, but hand written will do, to Malcolm Moss

Email: newslettereditor2010@mbmu3a.org.uk

Any stories, articles or photographs of interest to members are welcomed.

You can read back issues of the newsletter on our website www.mbmu3a.org.uk which is organised by Peter Kress

The closing date for the next edition of the Newsletter will be no later than 8th July 2011