

Reg. Charity: No. 1104944

May 2009

Chairman's chit chat

It is now three months since the new committee was elected and we are all settling into our roles nicely. We are a strong group who work in close harmony to provide as best and varied events as we can for all the members. We have many future events planned for your enjoyment, including the usual monthly speakers, groups, trips etc.

We would welcome comments (good or bad) from our members as we always strive to improve and grow, and if any member/s has any new ideas, suggestions etc, we would like to hear from them. We are always contactable by phone or e-mail. Contact details are all listed in the Newsletter and Website.

I take this opportunity of thanking all the many helpers "behind the scenes" as without them things wouldn't run as smoothly. A case in point is the production of the Newsletter. We all agree that Terry Lomax has been doing a fantastic job of editing the Newsletter, and it is with much regret that I have had to accept his resignation as he feels that after 18 months it is time for someone else to take up the challenge.

This therefore is an appeal to anyone who would like to become our new Editor. I hope that there is someone in our group who is willing to take this up as this is a very important aspect of our membership. PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN. Terry is more than happy to talk to anyone who is interested and help his successor if required.

Please contact me direct.

Diane Holker

Outings Group

Friday, September 18th, 2009 **Lichfield and National Memorial Arboretum**



We shall stop for coffee at Fairways Garden Centre (coffee not included in price) and then proceed to Lichfield.

Our visit to Lichfield is the day before the weekend of celebrations to mark the 300th birthday of Samuel Johnson - the person who compiled the first English Dictionary, amongst many other works. His birthplace museum is in the centre of town and covers five floors telling the story of young Johnson from his difficult childhood, professional struggles to national celebrity and Dictionary fame.

Lichfield was also home to Erasmus Darwin, a famous scientist, poet and physician and grandfather of Charles Darwin. Erasmus Darwin House is a Grade I listed building - do visit if you have time.

The Cathedral of Lichfield has been a centre of Christian worship for over 1300 years. It is magnificent and the only medieval Cathedral in Britain. It has three spires representing the Trinity.

We could write a lot about it but do go to see it for yourself. The Heritage Centre, situated in the Market Square, is also worth a visit. There are many eating place for you to buy lunch - if you have time!!

In the afternoon we go to Alrewas, just outside Lichfield, to the National Memorial Arboretum. It is a unique haven of peace and features over 100 memorials of National significance. It was established in 1997, set within the National Forest of Staffordshire. There is so much to see and the setting is beautiful. Entrance is free but a donation is asked for. We have included £2 in the cost for everyone, but do feel free to donate more on the day. There is a restaurant and Chapel.

thenma.org.uk

The cost of £15.00 includes coach, driver's gratuity and donation of £2 to the Memorial Arboretum.

Please note reversed pickups

We shall leave -	Romiley	8.00am
	Northumberland Arms	8.05am
	Marple Bridge	8.10am
	Regent Cinema	8.15am
	Rose Hill	8.20am

Booking June **Ann and Tony Matthews**

Friday July 3rd, 2009

Grosvenor Garden Centre and Powis Castle

Our coffee stop this morning will be at the Grosvenor Garden Centre which belongs to the Duke of Westminster. It is quite extensive with an excellent café. We shall have about 1 ½ hours here to enable you to have a good browse.

We then continue to Powis Castle, one of the great National Trust properties. We have chosen this time of year because the world famous garden is probably at its best - the clipped Yews sheltering the sumptuous borders.



The garden is laid out in terraces and, high on a rock above these, stands the castle, originally built in the 12th century. It commands magnificent views over England. Over the last 400 years it has been remodelled and embellished, reflecting the changing needs of the Herbert family, whose home it still is. A superb collection of treasures from India is displayed in the Clive Museum. Much more to see!!

We have not booked lunch. The restaurant is open or you may wish to bring a picnic.

We shall leave -	Rose Hill	8.00am
	Regent Cinema	8.05am
	Marple Bridge	8.10am
	Northumberland Arms	8.15am
	Romiley Arms	8.20am

The cost is £14.00 (including coach and driver's gratuity). The cost of entrance to Powis for non NT Members is £9.50. Please make sure that you have your NT cards.

Booking in May

Ann and Tony Matthews

MONDAY AUGUST 17TH, 2009

Skipton and Towneley Hall

We start the day with a sail!! We will join the Cobbydale Boat at Skipton, then having tea/coffee and biscuits while cruising gently along the Leeds Liverpool Canal. We shall then spend 2 ¾ hours in Skipton where there is much to see and do.

This market town was established in the 7th Century. It has some lovely shops and a Town Trail. One of the great attractions is Skipton Castle, one of the best preserved and most complete medieval castles in England. After the Battle of Marston Moor, it was the only Royalist stronghold left in the North. In Cromwell's time, Skipton was already ancient! The Castle is open every day and well worth a visit - there are quite a few steps. There are many eating places in the town to suit every taste and pocket. If you are a Fish and Chips fan 'BIZZIE LIZZIE'S' is a past winner of the 'Best Fish and Chips in the Country'.



Our last visit of the day is to Towneley Hall, where we shall have a Guided Tour. This beautiful house was once the home of the Towneley family and now houses Burnley's Art Gallery and Museum. It is set in beautiful parkland and grounds. There will be some stairs to attics and cellars on the tour but you will be able to sit those out if you wish. The Stables Restaurant will be open afterwards where you will be able to get a cup of tea.

The cost of £22.00 includes coach, driver's gratuity, boat trip, coffee and tour of Towneley Hall.

We shall leave-	Rose Hill	8.00am
	Regent Cinema	8.05am
	Marple Bridge	8.10am
	Northumberland Arms	8.15am
	Romiley Arms	8.20am

Booking in June

Ann & Tony Matthews

Outings News

Thanks to Sue and Mike for organising the visit to Gorton monastery in March - also for stepping in, at the last minute, to take our outing to Harrogate Flower Show. Everyone enjoyed the day - sorry we had to miss it!!

Dates are now all fixed for outings till the end of the year, but if anyone would like to take an outing in 2010, please contact us. We are sure that you will have lots of ideas and, if it's the first time, we will help.

It has been suggested that we do not wish to be contacted by telephone regarding bookings for Outings - this is not so. The first bookings for a particular outing will continue to be taken at the Monthly Meeting notified in Newsletters. After this date members may 'phone us to check on availability and make their bookings.

Calls around 5pm would be appreciated.

We still have a few places available for Coughton Court in June.

Please note: As we may not be available in July, we will be booking for **two** outings at the June meeting i.e. Skipton(August) and Lichfield & National Memorial Arboretum (September).

We look forward to seeing you on our future outings.

Ann and Tony Matthews



Holidays Group

Memories of a Holiday in Northern Cyprus

- Ω Spring weather and Spring flowers.
- Ω Craggy five fingered limestone mountains topped with Crusader castles
- Ω Vast open plains covered with bright yellow flowers
- Ω Brilliant azure sea and golden sands (but no turtles)
- Ω Ruins of Castles, Walled cities, Harbours, Basilicas, Temples, Amphitheatres and Churches built in turn by Persians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Crusaders, Venetians and Ottomans.
- Ω Museums of Archaeological artefacts, icons and the 2nd oldest recovered shipwreck
- Ω The aftermath of the Greek/Turkish conflict – the divisive Green Line, ruined villages, churches and a ghost town.
- Ω The presence of Turkish troops, Heroic statues and Nationalistic flags.
- Ω Old ruined churches and new mosques
- Ω Modern developments of Business premises, Universities, Hotels and Casinos
- Ω Ugly new concrete village complexes along the coast
- Ω 200 steps of St.Hilarion castle and the view from the top
- Ω Birdsong & flowers in St Barnabas' Monastery
- Ω Rainwater gushing down in Kyrenia Harbour
- Ω Kebabs, fresh fish, kofte and baklava. Pink grapefruit from Guzelyurt
- Ω Zekiye's village, Hisarkoy, with fields full of wild flowers, orchids, fennel and artichokes.
- Ω Olives and bread fresh from the clay oven baked by her mother and aunts.



We will not forget our friendly guide Onur with his encyclopaedic knowledge, his humour and his skill in presenting information on everything. Also the companionship of our U3A group, the new friends we made and noisy games of UNO after our evening meal.

Thanks to Fred for planning a marvellous holiday and to 'the Discovery Collection' for organising it.

Don Farthing

We have had a wonderful time in Northern Cyprus recently, resting in an excellent complex overlooking Kyrenia. We had brilliant views over the neighbouring area and the staff there were very attentive to our needs.

Our excursions took us to many Roman and Byzantine remains as well as ancient churches and wonderful scenery. Our guides spoke excellent English and did their best to ensure that we had a good time. We even managed an orchid walk to see some of the species endemic to this part of the world and our highlight was visiting our tour company's managing director's native village where her family provided us with home made bread and fruit juices.

We met other people from U3As in different parts of the country and we look forward to journeying with them again.

Fred Ogden

Hazel Jones, Group Leader



Walking Group

The walking group is open to all members of Marple Bridge and Mellor, Marple and Romiley U3As. You are welcome to come regularly or just occasionally. The grading is for guidance only as it is very difficult to assess. We don't live in flat country! The walk leader can advise on the exact nature of the walk if you have any doubts about your ability.

- Very easy – more or less flat, good surface, few stiles
- Easy – small sections of hill, not too rough, limited stiles
- Medium – typical of local terrain

For all walks meet in Brabyns Park car park (IN Brabyns Park NOT the car park on Brabyns Brow) for car sharing and prompt departure at 9.45 a.m. Some walks may use buses so, please carry your travel pass in case. Car passengers are asked to contribute about 7p per mile towards the cost of petrol. Please wear walking boots or strong shoes and carry waterproofs. You are advised to bring some refreshments for the walks, even short walks if they are at a distance. There may be a café or pub stop on some walks. The walk may differ from the one advertised if, for example, the weather is inclement or the leader has to be changed. Please don't bring dogs; they can cause problems. Again, if you have questions about any particular walk, please contact the walk leader or me. A (D) after the distance indicates that the walk is some distance away and will therefore take longer and food will be required.

Please keep this list in a visible place.

June – July May 2009 Walks

Wednesday 3 June 4/5miles med Hague Bar
Agnes Barlow

Tuesday 9 June 4 miles easy Woodford
Margaret Hogg

Wednesday 17 June 7 miles med Tunstead Milton
Irene Riley

Tuesday 23 June 5 miles med Rowarth
Doreen Scotte

Wednesday 1 July 5 miles easy Longdendale
Agnes Barlow

Tuesday 7 July 4/5 m. easy/med Alderley Edge
Pam Bluhm

Wednesday 15 July 6 miles mod Kettlethulme
Margaret Hogg

Wednesday 22 July 4/5 easy (to be arranged). May
be at a little distance.

Tuesday 28 July 4 miles med Lyme Park
Judy Rhodes

**Carole McConnell, Walking Group Leader
Dining Club**

Wednesday Evening, June 3rd.

We will be meeting at the Thai Restaurant on the A6.
Signing up in May.

Thursday Evening, July 2nd.

The Skillet Restaurant at Hayfield. Signing up in June.

Computer classes

These classes will be run on a very informal basis, more information will be given at the May meeting. If you are interested and not already on the list please ring me.

U3A Golfing Society

If you would like a day out on a course you would not normally play on please contact me on for more information.

Eileen Crowder

Open Gardening Group

This group uses the word "Open" in its title as members from Marple, New Mills, High Lane and Romiley are all welcome to attend our meetings at Marple Methodist Church on the second Wednesday of the month at 9.45am when we generally have a speaker, talking on some aspect of gardening.

Last October, Sue Beesley came to give an illustrated talk, telling us about winning the BBC 2006 Gardener of the Year Competition.

Sue worked for many years as an IT officer in her husband's business. Her hobby however was growing and propagating plants in the garden at which she became very knowledgeable specializing in the cultivation of Blue Poppies – Mekanopsis.

Whilst watching BBC. Gardener of the Year in the early 2000's she found that she could answer most of the questions posed to competitors. So, as a challenge she entered the competition in 2006. The first stages were telephone interviews and questioning. These she passed much to her amazement. This resulted in her becoming one of the six finalists.

For the final, the BBC had contacted a builder who had just completed and sold six identical properties on a new housing estate in the Midlands. Each finalist was given a brief as to what the owner wanted in his or her garden. First job of the finalist was to design and draw up plans for a garden to fit the brief. This Sue found difficult as she had never designed a garden from scratch and her drawing ability was very basic.

Once completed and the design finished, the next job was to find the plants. It was whilst she was doing this that she

discovered a rather "run-down" R.H.S. partner nursery at Dutton, near Warrington which specialized in hardy herbaceous perennials. It was here that she found some of the plants she wanted.

Ready to start. The competitors were allowed one week to convert the "Building Rubble Back Garden" into an award winning Garden. All competitors were allowed one personal helper – for hers, Sue chose her daughter, and the BBC provided a labourer.

Plants, turf, stones, paint, soil and flags were ordered and work began. First remove the builders rubble, paint the fencing, bring in the soil, stones and flags. Whilst all this was happening, film crews were taking shots from every angle and generally getting in the way. On the penultimate day, the plants arrived and these were all put in on the final day with half an hour to spare. Judging followed and Sue was declared the winner.

Life became rather "flat" after all the work and excitement, so Sue, not wanting to go back into an office began to study for an RHS Diploma in Horticulture. By chance, she discovered that the Lodge Lane Nursery, Dutton was for sale, together with Bluebell Cottage, a 1.5 acre RHS recommended garden, a three acre wildflower meadow and a 2 acre bluebell wood. The family bought the nursery, cottage and gardens in February 2007 and so, a hobby now became a means of making a living by designing and building gardens.

The gardens and nursery are open for six months of the year, but closed during the winter. We as a group are going for a conducted tour this June.

Last January our speaker was Mr. Gary Rainford who told us about the restoration of the gardens at Styal Mill. These we are going to visit for a guided tour in September.

Future Meetings.

- ☼ May 13th. Pat Harris and Jacky Collins-Marple Bridge in Bloom
- ☼ June 10th Coach Trip to Arley Hall in the morning followed by a conducted tour of Lodge Lane Nursery in the afternoon.
- ☼ (Some places may still be available on the coach.)
- ☼ July 8th. Coffee Meeting, short AGM. Followed by a general discussion on plant problems.
- ☼ August 12th Our own flower and fruit display.
- ☼ September 9th Conducted tour of the newly restored gardens at Styal Mill.

Margaret Hogg

Discussion Group

Unfortunately the current discussion group is to cease meeting, due to lack of adequate interest. It has been a good, sociable group and a very wide range of topics have been discussed over the past few years. However, there is still a small core of members interested in re-starting whenever an adequate number of people show an interest in joining them.

It is open to anyone to suggest ways of reformatting the group, such as –

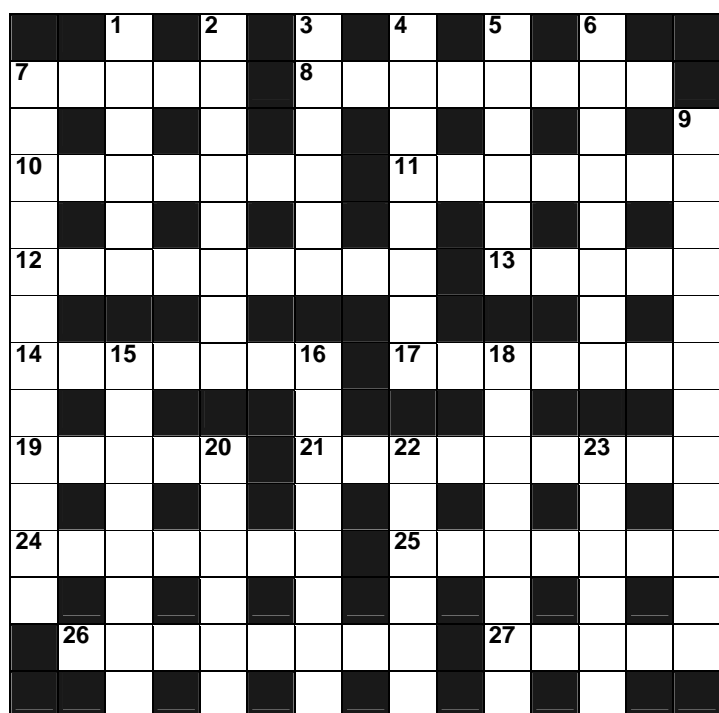
- * Should it be more structured as a debating forum with speakers FOR and AGAINST the motion?
- * Should different types of topics be used (this has always been open to anyone for suggestions?)
- * Meetings have been on the Tuesdays following the U3A meeting Tuesdays – are other times/days more suitable?

If anyone – including current ‘members’ – is interested, would you please contact any one of the following discuss your interest and specifically give times for the meetings which would suit you :-

Joyce Burtonshaw 427 7798
Alan Watt 427 1724
Peter McConnell 427 5202

Peter McConnell

Crossword Compiled by Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A Crossword Group



Geoff Heath

Across

- 7 Speak falsely about strength of character (5)
- 8 Whose son cobbled winter footwear? (8)
- 10 Churns caught inside peculiar crush (7)
- 11 Crazy bop around Alec – it's believed to be effective (7)
- 12 Destroy and create aid, somehow (9)
- 13 Five hundred head for jumble sale in Yorkshire area (5)
- 14 Teach me to swing weapon (7)
- 17 Look down? This may cure optical problem (3-4)
- 19 Train all new girls, offering introductory dance (5)
- 21 Outrageous cab fare for place to get a drink (6,3)
- 24 Seemingly endless ale – rent free! (7)
- 25 Freshen up drink at terminal (7)
- 26 One with will power, even when late (8)
- 27 Tradesman prepared to work in a shower (5)

Down

- 1 Siberia, not southern Spain and Portugal (6)
- 2 Me against me in the intervening period (8)
- 3 Shaken mat has cause of breathing problem (6)
- 4 Nothing left out as fifty go in to take part in contest (8)
- 5 Jersey, say, I left buried in sand (6)
- 6 One who screams, having taken overdose, heard in the Alps (8)
- 7 Three forms to send off for carer of children (6-6)
- 9 Journalist for *Hello* magazine grows tipsier in a crisis (6,6)
- 15 Assembled house of nuns, dismissing priest finally, and taking on editor (8)
- 16 Increase rapidly in scale – tea brewing (8)
- 18 Denounce old flame; create disharmony (8)
- 20 Elaborate or neat arrangement (6)
- 22 Natural aptitudes for planting conifers round US city (6)
- 23 Grills with British fuels (6)

Solution on page 8

Scams

This month the Office of Fair Trading and the Financial Services Authority (FSA) have issued warnings with regard to scams that are being targeted at the over 60's in particular. This takes the form of selling stocks & shares (over the phone usually) especially to people who have in the past bought some. The names appear on a data base and this has fallen into the fraudsters' hands. They are very plausible and whilst most operate from abroad, some are based in this country to add to their credibility.

The advice is that you do not fall for this scam and if you are buying stocks and shares, then you should do this through a recognised broker. If in doubt, contact the FSA or Trading Standards/Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06

www.consumerdirect.gov.uk/watch_out/scams

Bogus Callers

You can check the identity of utility callers at your property by phoning the numbers listed below:

* British Gas	0800 300 100	BT	0800 321 999
* E.ON	0800 056 6278	Scottish Power	0845 2700 700
* Accuread	0800 393 499	United Utilities	0845 746 2200

Useful Numbers:

If you have a Neighbourhood Policing issue, please contact your local team:

* Stockport Central:	0161-872-5050	Stockport North:	0161-856-9786
* Stockport East:	0161-856-9973	Stockport West:	0161-856-9770
* Police (non Emergency)	0161-872-5050	Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
* Victim Support	0161-477-9597	Stockport Council	0161-480-4949

Diane Holker



Meetings

16th June

21st July

18th August

15th September

Ian Morison

Watchers of the Sky (How our understanding of the universe has increased over the centuries.)

John Bissell

Social

Sonia McCann

The Vine Project (Vulnerable Children In Need of Education) A unique venture aimed to create a fund to support these children who have lost their parents through Aids in South Africa. She will be selling Zulu jewellery made by the children's grandmothers.

Future Speakers

Unless otherwise notified, the ordinary monthly meetings are held in St Paul's Church Hall, Compstall on the third Tuesday of each month at 10.00 am (for coffee and socialising). To enable members to use the bus service, the business of the meeting will start at 10.20am and will finish at 11.50am. 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.

- Please remember to bring and buy books at the monthly meetings.
- Please don't park near the war memorial.
- When attending a meeting please have your entrance fee ready (£1) preferably in the exact money.
- You are advised to carry your membership card with you, as you may be asked to show them at U3A group meetings and other events.

CONTACTS

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The Third Age Trust

The Old Municipal Buildings

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This Newsletter appears bi-monthly. The next edition will be 21st July 2009. Please send items for publication by email or disc in Microsoft Word, but hand written will do to the editor: Email: newslettereditor@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

Note: closing date for next edition: No later than

11th July

If you would like to get the newsletter early by e-mail on a PDF file which is designed for reading on a monitor, faster downloading and saving on printing and postage costs, please let Nora Glennon know at:

membershipsecretary@mbmu3a.org.uk

Crossword Solution

Across: 7 Fibre; 8 Snowshoe; 10 Scrunch; 11 Placebo; 12 Eradicate; 13 Dales; 14 Machete; 17 Eye-drop;

19 Tango; 21 Coffee bar; 24 Eternal; 25 Airport; 26 Testator; 27 Tiler.

Down: 1 Iberia; 2 Meantime; 3 Asthma; 4 Complete; 5 Island; 6

Yodeller; 7 Foster-mother; 9 Gossip writer;

15 Convened; 16 Escalate; 18 Execrate; 20 Ornate; 22 Flairs; 23 Broils.