

Chairman's Chit Chat

I am delighted to inform you that we have had a very good response from members volunteering to organise the Christmas Event on 15th December. A number of meetings have been held so far, and I understand that plans are well on their way. Tickets are available on the door through Nora at £2.00 each. Without giving too much away: we will have entertainment, Tombola, (see Eileen's report for donations) two "Lucky Ticket" draws, quiz and a buffet with wine. Sounds good doesn't it? Father Christmas may even pop in! You never know. I'm sure we will have a very good time and my thanks to all involved.

On the subject of volunteers – we will be looking for new committee members in the New Year and I would appeal to anyone who would like to join us. No special skills required other than common sense and a willingness to help and get involved to suit you.

Speaker Organiser

I am delighted to tell you that Chris Brooke (who runs the Design Group) is taking over from Ruth as Speaker Organiser. Chris is a close friend of mine, but I must add that she didn't get the job as a result. *She was the only one that applied!!!* I'm sure she will source suitable and interesting speakers for us as Ruth did. Welcome aboard Chris.

Newsletter Editor

The technical problems we were having with the crossover from Terry Lomax to Malcolm Moss taking over the position of Newsletter Editor have been resolved (hopefully) and we therefore welcome Malcolm to his new post. I'm sure he will do as excellent a job as Terry did. I take this opportunity of thanking Terry for all his hard work and dedication.

As always, members' input is very important to us, so please tell us if we need to be organising other events to improve our U3A. Diane

Outings News



From left to right: Ann and Tony Matthews (Group Leaders) with Peggy James, Ann Kay, and Elizabeth Araj at the rear.

Regent Cinema	8.50am
Marple Bridge	8.55am
Northumberland Arms	9.00am
Romiley Arms	9.05am

We should be back in Marple about 4.00pm

BOOKING AT NOVEMBER MEETING

Ann and Tony Matthews

WEDNESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY, 2010

HODSOCK PRIORY GARDENS, THE HARLEY GALLERY & DUKERIES GARDEN CENTRE

Hodsock Gardens are now open to the public only during the month of February when their famous Snowdrop Collection is in bloom. The Snowdrops cascade in gardens and woodland walks and, together with fragrant winter flowering borders, make this a delightful visit, with as much or as little walking as you want. A wonderful introduction to spring. The gardens are tended, with others, by Lady Buchanan. There is a plant sales area where you will be able to purchase that 'different' Snowdrop.



After a short comfort stop, we hope to reach Hodsock about 10.30am. Time for you to buy a coffee - or bring your own. There is a small restaurant here, but you may wish to buy a lunch at the Dukeries Garden Centre. We hope for a bright sunny day but, just in case, wrap up warm and wear flat, stout shoes.

A short drive away is the Harley Gallery which won the Heart of England Tourist Board's Award for Excellence in 1999. The Gallery supports and promotes a greater understanding of the visual arts through a range of activities and exhibitions of contemporary and historical art and craft. It is situated on the Welbeck Estate. In February there is to be an exhibition of Woven Tapestry called 'Follow the Thread'.

Adjacent to the Gallery is the Dukeries Garden Centre, set in 11 acres of the beautiful former walled garden of Welbeck Abbey. Here you can wander through the gift shop and admire the many plants and garden necessities. You can also take time out to relax in the attractive surroundings of the Egon Ronay recommended restaurant and enjoy your lunch or afternoon tea.

Apart from starting time - all other times will depend on the weather and you will be told en route.

We shall leave :	Romiley	8.15am
	Northumberland Arms	8.20am
	Marple Bridge	8.25am
	Regent Cinema	8.30am
	Rose Hill	8.35am

PLEASE NOTE REVERSED PICKUPS

We should be back in Marple about 5.30pm.

Cost £15.00 includes coach, driver's gratuity and entrance to Hodsock Gardens. There is no charge for entry to the gallery or Garden Centre.

Ann and Tony Matthews

We hope you will enjoy this Winter break
BOOKING AT JANUARY 2010 MEETING

Outings Report - Friday 18th September, Lichfield and the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas

An early start and a full coach set off for Lichfield and the National Memorial Arboretum. A quick coffee and shop at Fairways Garden Centre, then back on the coach clutching our purchases, mainly 'garden gloves'.

Lichfield was celebrating Samuel Johnson's 300th Birthday with a free heritage weekend and Georgian festival. There was entertainment and family activities with a spectacular sound and light event in the Market Square on Friday evening. His birthplace museum, covering five floors, was most interesting, especially a peep at the first English Dictionary on the fifth floor.

The Cathedral and Heritage Centre were visited by many U3A members before we set off for the National Memorial Arboretum. This was established in 1997, comprising 150 acres of trees and memorials devoted to the concept of Remembrance. The striking Armed Forces Memorial gave us time for quiet reflection and to offer up a silent prayer. It gives recognition and thanks for those who have died whilst on duty or as a result of terrorist activities since 1945.

A most enjoyable and interesting day. Many thanks to Chris, our driver, and organisers Ann and Tony.

Kath Bradley

WAR



It was a worthwhile war, the Minister said,
We did the right thing so History will judge,
Costly, of course, in money and lives,
But it was all worthwhile, the Minister said.

It was a successful war, the General said,
That we won in the end though many were dead,
There'll be medals all round,
And a knighthood or two,
It was a successful war, the General said.

It was a well planned war, the Major said,
Safe in our billets behind the lines
We planned the battles the General won,
It was a well planned war, the Major said.

It was the usual war, the Sergeant said,
Officers gave orders while other ranks bled,
That's usual in war, the Sergeant said.

It was war, bloody war, the Private said,
Cold, hungry, tired and scared
In the mud and confusion where we were sent.
It was war, bloody war, the Private said,
And no-one can tell me why I am dead.
A.K. November 2009

Christmas Meeting

December 15th is the date of our Christmas meeting which will be marked with entertainment and a buffet. Tickets will be on sale at the November meeting at £2 each. The doors will open at the usual time of 09.45 and the meeting will close at 12.00.

Nora (0161 449 8997) will receive telephone calls to reserve tickets for members who will not attend the November meeting.

We will also be running Tombola at this event and we are looking for donations of suitable items such as wines, spirits, confectioneries, plants, good quality ornaments (undamaged) and other suitable new items. We would be grateful for your contributions which should be brought to the November meeting. Diane Holker (Chairman) and members of the committee will be on hand to collect any contributions, for which we thank you in advance. Pauline and Chris will receive gifts for the Tombola up to December 8th. After that Jean and Barbara will collect.

Dining Group

Our November venue is no surprise. It will be at The Bridge Hotel, Prestbury, on Thursday 19th November at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm. This will be the last one that we organise and we are looking forward to a wonderful evening with you all. **Eileen**

Extra Events

If you are interested in occasionally meeting up with like minded people to visit a particular exhibition or concert, please contact Diana Williams.

Book Group 2

In September we read 'Children of the Revolution' by Dinaw Mengestu.

It tells of Stephanos who fled Ethiopia seventeen years ago and now owns a general store in a rundown Washington D.C. neighbourhood which is on the verge of gentrification. His life is quiet, he has few customers and every week he meets with two African friends who are also refugees from revolution to drink and read Russian classics. When Judith a white woman and her daughter Naomi move in next door Stephanos life seems about to change.

In October we read 'Half a Yellow Sun' by C.N. Adichie.

This story had some connection with our previous book in that it was set in 1960s Nigeria, a country blighted by civil war. Three lives intersect. Ugwu, a boy from a poor village, works as a houseboy for a university lecturer. Olanna, a young woman, has abandoned her life of privilege in Lagos to live with her charismatic new lover, the professor. The third is Richard, a shy Englishman in thrall to Olanna's twin sister. When the horror of the war engulfs them, their loyalties are severely tested in ways that none of them imagined.

Mary England

French

I am thinking of starting a French conversation class or French for beginners class. Anyone interested can speak with me after the November meeting, or contact me.

Shirley Hammond

EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE NORTH WEST REGIONAL COMMITTEE

(Please see notice board for details)

Jodrell Bank

Two trips organised by John Ellison from Lancaster & Morecambe U3A on behalf of the above were very well received, members seeing far more than the usual visitor. Their guide was Prof Ian Morrison who has spoken at one of our meetings. If there is enough interest John will organise a further trip. Please contact him on j.ellison521@btinternet.com

Liverpool Culture Day 16th March 2010

There has been a great deal of interest from other U3As. If, closer to the time, enough members were interested, a coach could be organised. The main

organiser is Kathleen Mercier of Oxton and Prenton U3A on the Wirral – kathleenmercier@talktalk.net

This will be a well planned day covering a wide variety of venues.

More details will become available.

Spring Residential School

7th to 10th April 2010. Applications and deposits are already being received by the NWREC. Details of the events to be held, costs etc are on the notice board together with application forms.

For further information please speak to **Eva Wilkie**

MARPLE BRIDGE & MELLOR U3A RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP

2010 may seem far off, but this is the last newsletter of 2009, and the membership renewal form is attached. There is no reason why you shouldn't renew your membership NOW – before you get bogged down with the Christmas rush – and it would be much appreciated if you did so. Last year some members were still renewing their membership in mid-March, having overlooked the need to do so earlier, which made a lot of extra work. Note that your cheque will not be banked until January.

In order to give a better service at the membership desk, we are asking all members to pay by cheque (see the form for details of arrangements), and would welcome your cooperation. If you have any problems with this, please contact me.

Nora Glennon, Membership Secretary



Holidays Group

Why not join us on a holiday next year whether you are single or with a friend or spouse?

There are still a few places left on the 10 day holiday to Istanbul on 5th May 2010.

There is one vacancy for a lady to share accommodation. Cost £1005.00. £50.00 deposit as soon as possible please. Contact me for further details.

Bournemouth , Belvedere Hotel, Mon 22 Feb – Fri 25 Feb 2010. Cost £257.00

5 days/ 4 nights, dinner, bed and breakfast with day excursions and evening entertainment.

Something exciting for the Autumn:-

Azores Island Hopping, 11 September – 25 September 2010, £1599.00

Insurance included (no age limit).

The tranquil Azores are unspoilt islands of stunning natural beauty, embracing rugged cliffs, volcanic craters, towering peaks and bubbling hot springs.

This tour gives a flavour of three of its islands: Faial, Terceira and Sao Miguel.

Holiday Highlights: Gazing into the crater of Sete Cidades, the UNESCO world heritage sight of Angra do Heroismo. See breathtaking views of Fire Lake on an optional excursion.



Walking Group



Fly from Manchester to San Miguel, 3 nights half board., Fly from San Miguel to Terceira, 5 nights half board. Fly from Terceira to Faial, 4 nights half board, Fly Faial to San Miguel, 2 nights half board before returning home.

Places are limited. Deposit £160 as soon as possible please.

For more details of any holiday, contact **Hazel Jones**

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 fuel. 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.

November - December Walks 2009

Weds 2 Dec. 5miles med. Local
Agnes Barlow

Tues. 8 Dec. 5 miles med. Hayfield
Doreen Scotte and Shirley Molloy

Weds 16 Dec. 3/4 miles easy Offerton
Margaret Hogg

Tues. 29 Dec. 6 miles med.
Brabyn's to Birchvale/Hayfield

Return by bus (pass)
Carole McConnell

Weds. 6 Jan. 5/6 miles easy/med. Carrbrook
Irene Riley

Tues. 12 Jan. 4/5 miles med.(stiles) Combs
Judy Rhodes

Weds. 20 Jan. 5 miles med. Bollington
Sheila Stafford

Tues. 26 Jan. 5 easy/ med New Mills
Pam Bluhm

Springtime on a walk from Hayfield

The group members are, from right to left, Irene, Agnes, Wendy, Pam, Judy and Olgar.



Photograph by Sheila Stafford
Carole McConnell, Walking Group Leader

Meetings



Future Speakers

17 th November	Judith Higgins	“The History of Stockport Sunday School”
15 th December	Christmas Celebrations	
19 th January	Dave Cook “Humour in Education” based on 26 years teaching in secondary education.	
16 th February	AGM	
16 th March	Sue Beesley	BBC Gardner of the Year 2006 has a garden haven in the heart of Cheshire

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.

Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A Groups

MONDAY

Crown Green Bowling Each Monday 10.30am Jean Mincherton & Bill Prophet
Summer Bowling@Marple End of March-End of Sept
Winter Bowling Torkington Park October - March-10.30-12.00

Creative Writing 3rd Monday in month Adrian Kirsten
Crossword Compilation 3rd Monday in month Geoff Heath
Map reading and walk Mondays
Planning 2-4pm Home sessions Carole McConnell
Play Reading 2nd Monday in month Shirley Molloy
Co group leader Derek Davidson
Music Appreciation 3rd Monday in month - am *Jonathan Gort*

TUESDAY

Painting 2nd & 4th Tues (+5th) Shirley McConnell
Spanish Tuesdays pm Ruth Frost
Walking Tues or Wednesday Carole McConnell
as in the Newsletter
Jazz Appreciation 3rd Tuesday 2pm Robin Bluhm

WEDNESDAY

Dancing-Improvers Latin Marple Scout Hut 2-4pm Kath Taylor
Poetry 3rd Wednesday Clair Boyes
Usually after the main meeting
Walking Tues or Wednesday Carole McConnell
As per the Newsletter

History of Culture 1 2nd Thursdays 10am David Matthews
History of Culture 2 2nd Thursdays 2 pm David Matthews
Bridge - Improvers Thursday 1.45-4.15 pm *Chris Gibson*
Photography 1st Thursday 1.30-3.30pm Margaret Hogg

FRIDAY

Digital Photography Fri 10am to suit members Joy Close
Geology Group 1 10am - Once a month (2nd Friday) Mary Howie
Geology Group 2 10am - Once a month (3rd Monday) Mary Howie
Dance - Improver -Ballroom 2 - 4pm High Lane Kath Taylor

OTHERS

Art Outings Various visits Kath Siddall
Boules Craig's home, TBA Craig Wright
First Aid Depends on numbers Doreen Scotte
Holidays Various visits Hazel Jones
Matinee Varies Sue Humphris
Matinee Club Co.Leader.) Jean Howells
Microlight Flying Barton Aerodrome - as announced Jane Rhodes
History Last Friday in month - 10am Alan Watt
Outings As agreed by group Ann & Tony Matthews
Dining Group Approx monthly Lunch or Dinner Eileen & Alf Crowder
Interior Design Varies Chris Brooke

Reading Group 1 As agreed by group Barbara Mee
Reading Group 2 As agreed by group Mary England
Reading Group 3 As agreed by group Liz Dyckhoff
Scrabble Mavis Lewis
Table Tennis David Wilkinson*
Gardening 2nd Wed of the month Margaret Hogg
9.45 - coffee Methodist Sunday School
Speaker at 10am Church Lane, Marple
Sing Live By arrangement Chris Brooke

Non-members of MBM U3A

Group Activities at Marple U3A

Chess Club - Non beginners Contact David David Wilkinson
Scrabble 2nd Tues, 2pm Marple Library Mavis Lewis
Table Tennis Wed pm - Brabyns Park David Wilkinson

CONTACTS

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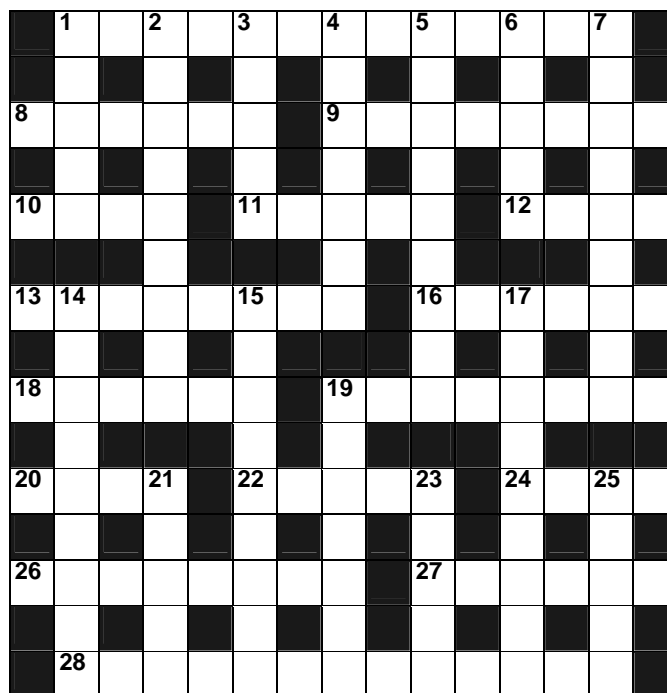
National Website: www.u3a.org.uk

National Office:

The Third Age Trust

The Old Municipal Buildings

19, East Street, Bromley Kent, BR1 1QE 020 8466 6139



Clues across

- 1 Notice: "Bulbs I'm changing won't light" (13)
- 8 In Heaven, *Te Deum* is given an outlet (6)
- 9 As a rule, Molly ran badly (8)
- 10 Pig's house at end of lane is an eyesore (4)
- 11 Rector solemnly hid trunk (5)
- 12 Pulls guts out (4)
- 13 Delightful bold area developed (8)
- 16 Mix item up and charge (6)
- 18 Bush displays unusual zeal in self-help group (6)
- 19 Something loose? Screw up lint in rag around head of bolt (8)
- 20 Obsequious, objectionable, ingratiating, loathsome, yucky leaders (4)
- 22 Chinese secret society on a Pacific island (5)
- 24 Bird talk! (4)
- 26 Quiet! Puce flea is jumping about (8)
- 27 Prisoner plays in team (6)
- 28 Embarrassed smuggler produces vegetable (7,6)

Clues down

- 1 Disinclined to move, I rent out (5)
- 2 New car held at large church (9)
- 3 Among the pyramids, tourists marvel (5)
- 4 Peacemakers never stupidly cause to lose courage (7)
- 5 One trying to scare us – it's a mistake to have birds fluttering round (9)
- 6 Last animal to leave stable, troublesome brute (5)
- 7 I lengthen broadcast to get rid of prejudice (9)
- 14 Woozy feeling produced when I dine out on ship, imbibing half of fizz (9)
- 15 Attractive life, but wickedly holding gold (9)
- 17 Manic Pole becomes upholder of law (9)
- 19 Lock of hair included in covering letter (7)
- 21 Succulent plant yields unusual crimson cherries at first (5)
- 23 Farewell to princess joining the European Union (5)
- 25 Daisy appears in Michaelmas term (5)

Solution on page 9

Crossword Compiled by Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A Crossword Group

Geoff Heath

This Newsletter appears bi-monthly. The next edition will be 19th January 2010. Please send items for publication by email or disc in Microsoft Word, but hand written will do, to Malcolm Moss

E-mail: newslettereditor@mbmu3a.org.uk

Any stories, articles or photographs of interest to members are welcomed. **Closing date 9th January 2010**

Newsletter printed by Don Farthing.

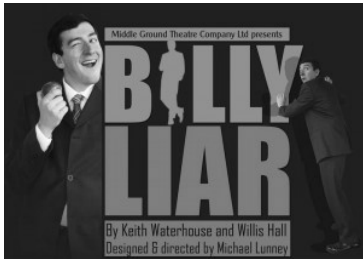
You can read back issues of the newsletter on our website www.mbm3a.org.uk (Webmaster Peter Kress).

Crossword Solution

Across: 1 Incombustible; 8 Vented; 9 Normally; 10 Styte; 11 Torso; 12 Tugs; 13 Adorable; 16 Impute; 18 Azalea; 19 Rattling; 20 Oily; 22 Tonga; 24 Chat; 26 Peaceful; 27 Inmate; 28 Scarlet runner.

Down: 1 Inert; 2 Cathedral; 3 Midst; 4 Unnerve; 5 Terrorist; 6 Beast; 7 Enlighten; 14 Dizziness; 15 Beautiful; 17 Policeman; 19 Ringlet; 21 Yucca; 23 Adieu; 25 Aster.

Matinee Club - Booking now for:



Billy Liar at the Oldham Colliseum March 3rd 2010



The Ballet - Sleeping Beauty - March 31st 2010 at the Lowry **Jean Howells**

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This is my last newsletter as editor as Malcolm Moss takes over for the next edition in January. Thank you for your support in submitting articles and photographs to make it more interesting. I have edited it for two years and I think it's now time for someone else to take over. I'm sure that you will also give Malcolm the same support.

Terry Lomax

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