

Reg. Charity: No. 1104944

November 2008

Outings Group

HOPTON HALL - SNOWDROPS & CARSINGTON WATER - LUNCH
WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY, 2009

Our two venues today are inseparably linked in history. Hopton Hall, formerly the home of the Gill family, was remodelled as an Elizabethan Manor House early in the 19th Century. However, much of the estate was lost, in 1978, to the Severn Trent Water Authority in order to be flooded for the vast reservoir known as Carsington Water.

Much of the Hall is now given over to holiday lets. But each year the grounds are open to the public with a grand display of Snowdrops. The magical sight of the first Snowdrop provides the earliest sign of Spring and the promise of better things to come. Hopton Hall is now one of Derbyshire's most popular Winter attractions.



We shall aim to arrive at Hopton Hall soon after it opens in the morning. Coffee is available at a small café on an individual basis.

After leaving Hopton Hall, we will have just a short drive to Carsington Water, where we shall have our pre-booked lunch in the very light and airy Mainsail Restaurant overlooking the reservoir. The Visitor Centre is most attractive. There is an interactive exhibition called 'The Water Story' - learn about the water cycle - how we clean sewage and produce high quality drinking water!! There are a few specialist shops to browse or buy.



The walk around the Reservoir is 7 miles - not time today but walkers will perhaps have time for a quick walk after lunch. In summer there is boat and cycle hire, fishing and water sports. There is also a Wildlife Centre - much wildlife around and bird watchers should bring their binoculars.

Cost: £23.00 includes coach, driver's gratuity, entrance to Hopton Hall gardens and lunch at Carsington Water.

Depart:

Romiley Arms	8.50am
Northumberland Arms	8.45am
Marple Bridge	9.00am
Regent Cinema	9.05am
Rose Hill	9.10am

PLEASE NOTE REVERSED PICKUPS

Booking will begin at the November meeting.

Ann & Tony Matthews

MANCHESTER JEWISH MUSEUM
& RYLANDS LIBRARY
WEDNESDAY 14 JANUARY 2009



Our venues for this date are local and can be reached by public transport - FREE!!

The Jewish Museum is situated on Cheetham Hill, in Manchester. It is a jewel in the midst of a commercial area. The visit would last about two hours and consist of a talk about the history of the building - why it became a Synagogue - and Jewish customs. There would be time for questions and a visit to the main exhibition housed upstairs. Unfortunately no refreshments are available here. The cost of the talk and tour here is £4.00.

Travelling from our various locations by train, we would meet at Piccadilly Station at 10.15am, then on to Victoria Station by Metro. Close by the Station, outside the Urbis Centre, on Corporation Street, is the stop for Nos. 135 or 89 buses which take us to the Museum. Depending upon the size of our group we would hope to be able to travel together on both these methods of transport.

After our visit to the Museum the bus would take us back to the centre of Manchester where we could have lunch or look around

In the afternoon we could meet again at Rylands Library, on Deansgate, at 2.30pm, for an audio

tour of the building and library. We can discover the history of the Library, including how and when it was built. There are various rooms and galleries housing some of the library's unique collections. The historic Entrance Hall is dominated by the statue group on the wall facing the original entrance doors. The Gothic architecture of this magnificent building is stunning and, for those of you who have not visited - it is a must. We could write lots more here but come to see for yourselves.

The cost of the Audio Guide is £2.50 and well worth it. You will be able to pay for this tour, on an individual basis, at the Library. So - you will be able to visit both venues or just choose one.

When booking, precise directions to both venues will be provided.

Booking will begin at the November meeting.

Ann & Tony Matthews

Visit to Doveleys and Kedleston Hall Monday 20th October and Wednesday 22nd October



Mike and Jane (Microlight Group) with feet firmly on the ground at Doveleys on the October trip

Coaches set off towards the Staffordshire/Derbyshire border for our first visit of the day - Doveleys Garden Centre, a country attraction in the beautiful Dove Valley between Ashbourne and Uttoxeter. A chance to browse and purchase plants and gifts or enjoy a stroll in the park down to the River Dove. A lovely home cooked meal and a glass of wine was very enjoyable before we set off for Kedleston Hall.

Kedleston is one of the earliest and best works of neoclassical architect Robert Adam who was charged with the design of the house, gardens and park in 1758 by its owner Sir Nathaniel Curzon, the 1st Baron Scardale.

The Hall is a beautiful neoclassical house with an impressive, massive portico of eight pillars under a huge triangular pediment, crowned with classical statues. Inside is the grand marble entrance hall, furniture and

decor of the sumptuous State rooms, Kedleston's aqua blue furniture, the drawing room with its blue damask walls and the Eastern Museum with a vast collection of curios assembled by Baron Curzon on his travels in Asia while Viceroy of India.

The garden includes sculptures, a summer house and orangery plus a wonderful collection of trees and shrubs. The 820 acres of parkland have four designated walks. The grounds of Kedleston Hall sweep away in a series of vistas incorporating a line of five lakes joined by a series of cascades, one of which is spanned by a graceful three-arched Palladian bridge.

The film 'The Duchess' starring Keira Knightley as Georgiana, Ralph Fiennes as the 5th Duke of Devonshire and Caharlotte Rampling as Lady Spencer, had scenes shot both inside and outside Kedleston. Some of the dresses worn in the film can be seen in the Exhibition Hall. Filming took place in September -October 2007 and the film crew were at the Hall for 5 weeks. They numbered 170. Some days another 100 extras were on set along with actors and hovering Trust staff. Two specialist conservators worked alongside the House Manager during filming to ensure that the Hall, and its interiors, remained undamaged. Everywhere the crew went they went too 'clutching tennis balls, cut open, to place on the bottom of their equipment to protect the floors. Each morning fresh flowers arrived from London for the amazing arrangements seen in the film.

Previous filming at Kedleston includes the 1981 series 'The Nanny', starring Wendy Craig, and 'Jane Eyre' 2006 TV Series.

All too soon the day came to an end so at 4.30 we set off for home. A wonderful day out. Many thanks to Ann and Tony for organising the trip.- and the glorious sunshine on the Wednesday.

Kath Bradley

MARPLE BRIDGE & MELLOR U3A RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP

2009 may seem far off, but this is the last newsletter of 2008. 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-April, 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** membershipsecretary@mbmu3a.org.uk

Avoid the Scams

We are all aware of the endless "junk mail" that lands on our doorsteps every day, plus the unsolicited telephone calls, often from people that we have great difficulty in understanding anyway. Apart from the annoying intrusion into our lives, it can also have dire consequences mentally and financially to the point that some people have not only used up their life savings but also lost their homes as a result of fraudulent promises of riches.

To try and help our members to avoid falling into this trap I have compiled a list of useful numbers and websites to get you started (if you haven't done so yet) and a brochure from Trading Standards will be on display at the meetings detailing the pitfalls.



www.consumerdirect.gov.uk - tell them if you think you've been scammed. 08454 04 05 06
For a free leaflet from Trading Standards call 0800 389 3158

www.thinkjessica.com is A MUST to view as it tells you how one OAP lost over £50,000.00 through these scams, and her daughter has started a campaign to put a stop to the “scammers”. The Helpline is 0871 200 3796 if you have no access to the internet.

www.tpsonline.org.uk - telephone preference service - to stop unsolicited phone calls from the UK or 0845 0700707

www.mpsonline.org.uk - mail preference service – to stop unsolicited mail or 020 72913310

Now for some good news - FREE DIRECTORY ENQUIRIES: 0800 100 100

If you have any information of a similar nature that you feel our members will benefit from, then please send details to me at diane@select.uk.net (include U3A in the subject column) or phone 01663-765710 and I will try and include these in subsequent newsletters/website.

Diane Holker – Vice Chair

Scams checklist

Scams come in different forms - letters, email, telephone calls and text messages.

Promotions of this kind are a dishonest attempt to trap you into parting with your money.

If you are approached and offered something that seems too good to be true, before you respond ask yourself these questions:

- Was the offer unsolicited?
- Does it look too good to be true?
- Do I have to respond 'at once' - what's the rush?
- Do I have to make a purchase to win a prize?
- Do I have to ring a premium rate telephone number?
- Do I have to give my bank or credit card details?
- Do I have to send the money to a PO Box number?
- Am I asked to keep it confidential?
- Can I afford to lose the money?

Before you part with any money, take legal or professional advice because the chances are, once you have sent it, you will never see it again.

Holiday Group trip to Sicily



We had a very adventurous holiday in September due to a late change in flight arrangements. Having to go to Liverpool for our flight meant we were up a long time before dawn when our minibuses arrived to take us to the airport for the first stage of our journey. Fortunately the flight was on time and we arrived in Rome, where after freshening up, we enjoyed an open top bus tour seeing the wonderful sights of this ancient city.

The following day we endured our train ride to Sicily in temperatures of over 90° F (32° C) and had the experience of the train actually being shunted onto the ferry across the Straits of Messina to Sicily. We arrived at Taormina at 9 pm, one hour behind schedule. Our coach was however waiting for us and we were soon in the hotel having a pleasant dinner.

Our next few days were spent touring this wonderful island but it was unseasonally hot and we were all glad of our rest day(s). We eventually travelled to Lipari in the Aeolian Islands after a six hour wait at Milazzo due to heavy seas and broken down hydrofoils. The crossing was turbulent and several of our group (as well as many other passengers) were quite ill but the following day turned out quite nice with more ambient temperature. It was a pleasant island and some of us were invited to visit the next island where we spent an

agreeable afternoon at the home of Vincent Butler the well known sculptor for who has done creations for Mellor Church.

We eventually retraced our steps to Rome (again the train from Sicily was an hour late) but thankfully the crossing over the sea was calm) and rested in our hotel and caught the early morning flight to Liverpool, again the flight being on time. However for some, due to roadworks on the M56 it took two hours to return to Marple.

An exciting holiday, but not to be repeated. Our next trip is to Northern Cyprus in March when it will be certainly less exhausting. Places are now fully booked but if you wish to go on the waiting list, just let me know.

As you are aware this will be my last trip as organiser but my successor Mrs Hazel Jones is looking through various prospectuses for later in the year and these will be advertised in this newsletter in due course.

Fred Ogden



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.

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

December 2008 and January 2009 Walks

Weds 3 December 5/6 miles Combs Med
Margaret Hogg
Tues 9 December 4 miles Rachael's Seat Easy
Doreen Scotte
Weds 17 December 4/5 miles Whitfield, Glossop
Easy/Med Irene Riley
Tues 23 December 4 miles Local Easy
Sue Humphris
Tues 30 December 5 miles Poynton/Bramhall
Easy Carole McConnell

Please keep this list in a visible place.
Weds 7 January 4 miles Glossop Easy
Pam Bluhm
Tues 13 January 5 miles Buxworth Easy/Med
Liz Dyckhoff
Weds 21 January 6/7 miles Newtown Med
Sheila Stafford N.B. Bus from
High Lane – have pass
Tues 27 January 5 miles Torkington Easy
Agnes Barlow
Carole McConnell

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Matinee Club



Latest Offers – now booking
13th January Great Expectations by Charles Dickens adapted for the theatre by Neil Bartlett at the Library Theatre. Tickets £14 (no coach)

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1st April Birmingham Ballet Company – Pomp and Circumstance, music by Elgar. Tickets £21, with coach £27
Jean Howells



Reading Group 2

Our reading group met in October after reading 'The Ghost Writer' by John Harwood. This was a gripping mystery with twisting plots and sub-plots about a solitary boy with a vivid imagination growing up in Australia. His search into his family history, and his longing to meet his mysterious pen friend Alice, eventually brings him to London. He discovers a sinister past which becomes entangled with the present. The group found the book absorbing and intriguing as like most ghost stories nothing is really ever explained.

Our latest book was 'The Madonnas of Leningrad' by Debra Dean.

This book gave us an insight into the siege of Leningrad in 1941. The story moved back and forth in time between the Soviet Union and contemporary America. Marina, now living in America, is struggling with getting old and her most vivid memories are of her work amongst the treasures of The Hermitage during the war.. The horrors, hunger, and death that she experienced as the war progressed have all been hidden from her family and now as her dementia takes hold she clings to the memories of beauty and grace to be found in art.

In parallel her daughter seeks to fulfil her artistic ambitions in modern America all the time ignorant of her parents past. The group enjoyed this book although found the ending left questions unanswered.

Our next meeting is on the 2nd December at Joan Mottram's.

Mary England

Dining Club



Christmas Lunch at Hazel Grove Golf Club

A few tickets are still available for this event and will be on sale at the November meeting. We are looking forward to seeing you all once again to start the Christmas Season. Entertainment after Lunch by Four in Accord (a Barbershop Quartet).

Our last event for the year, at the Bridge in Prestbury, is nearly upon us. Alf and I would like to thank every one who offered to arrange some of the venues for us during the year. They were a huge success and we hope you enjoyed them as much as we did. We love the Bridge at Prestbury and I am sure we will have a great time on November 20th

Eileen Crowder

Future Speakers



- o **16 December** **Christmas Celebrations * see note at foot of page**
- o **20 January** **Penny Dean "Small in a Tall Person's World"**
- o **17 February** **AGM**
- o **17 March** **Jack Marsden "The Samaritans"**

Meetings

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.

Gardening Group

- ◆ 10th December – Mr Rob Wilson Friends of Marple Memorial Park
- ◆ 14th January Mr Gary Rainford Restoration of Gardens at Styal Mill

Margaret Hogg

Tombola/Raffle *

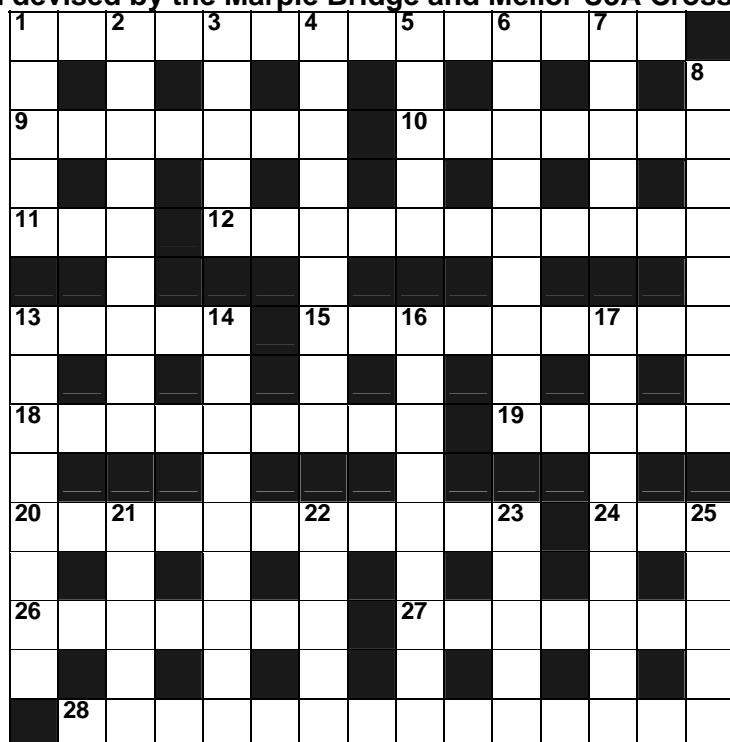
As part of our December meeting we are looking for donations towards our Tombola/Raffle stall and therefore would be grateful for any and all contributions. Anne Eade and myself will be available at the subsequent meetings to collect your contributions and/or take names for persons who may wish to make a donation and would like it to be collected. All items must be in PRIOR to the December meeting for obvious reasons.

May I remind you that all items must be new (where applicable) and any of the following would be welcome: Wines, Spirits, confectioneries, toiletries, ornaments, plants, diamonds, rubies etc. If you are not sure if your particular item would be suitable – just ask.

I look forward to meeting you and thank you in advance for your generosity.

Diane Holker – Vice chair diane@select.uk.net or anne.eade@sky.com All e-mails must have U3A in Subject column

Crossword devised by the Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A Crossword Group



Clues across

- 1 Firms supplying bigger firms reverse public transport against farm vehicles (14)
- 9 Trooped off to get weapon (7)
- 10 Initially, diving experts experienced problems saving every artefact in the ocean (4,3)
- 11 Report of colour change – or just fade away? (3)
- 12 Wrongly interpret tenor's music (11)
- 13 A bit of blooming lobelia represents the earth? (5)
- 15 Period when Anne first became involved with Andrew and Di by coming between Victoria and George (9)
- 18 Negligible importance given to absence of money in bank (2,7)
- 19 Respond to some dire acting (5)
- 20 Recognise shortbill, extremely keen, and owl on edge (11)
- 24 One easily duped returns adhesive (3)
- 26 Use ream differently to ascertain the size (7)
- 27 Am I really coming round each way initiating pilots? (7)
- 28 University official has bad habit, taking opportunity with roll-over (4-10)

Clues down

- 1 New diets put in place (5)
- 2 Real bacon is cooked in Spanish city (9)
- 3 Acidic substance in possession of Poole umpire (5)
- 4 Wedding outfit is at our Sue's, being altered (9)
- 5 Reproduction of sound of German car – nothing following (5)
- 6 Rate change surer – keeps accounts straight (9)
- 7 Back, sir! Meet the Queen on part of the stair! (5)
- 8 Laze about in hut with new vegetarian food (8)
- 13 Danger fluttering over me? Send for this chap! (8)
- 14 Contents of envelope used to cure nose lesion initially (9)
- 16 Removed from north ward, returning after Whit disturbance (9)
- 17 Ian upset guru over a novice's first address (9)
- 27 Dust-coloured device reportedly needed for vehicle access (5)
- 22 Blood-sucker found in shelter above church (5)
- 23 Cheerier inside, although strangely frightening (5)
- 25 Grass-cutter out of order in western Rome (5)

Geoff Heath

Solution on page 8



U3A Members and the Open University's OpenLearn

The OU has provided on the web over 5000 hours of study material FREE. All you have to do is go to the website, browse and then register (it's easy and free) and study a unit of your choice. It is all very exciting. This is the website:

Website: <http://www.open.ac.uk/openlearn/home.php>

The learning material is arranged in units which take from 4 to 50 hours to study. There are currently over 400 units (and the number of units is increasing all the time) arranged in 13 Topic Areas ranging from Arts and History, to Business and Management and to Science and Nature. It is good quality learning material taken from OU programmes from Introductory to Masters level. How can we use it for U3A purposes?

- Individual study
- Group Study – e.g. a U3A Group could agree to use the material as the basis for study and discussion. This could be a single unit or a series of units.
- In Lab Space you can modify the units to suit your needs. They show you how you can do it. And you are then asked to upload the modification so others can share in it. This is true shared learning and has really exciting possibilities for U3As and members.

What we would ask you to do.

When you register with OpenLearn please add the tag ‘U3A member’ to your list of interests on your profile so that U3A members can more easily ‘find’ each other on the OpenLearn site.

Shortly we will be creating a U3A Learning Club on the OpenLearn website so U3A members can discuss how they are using OpenLearn in their U3As and individually. Over the next few months we will be sending further mailings on U3A and OpenLearn.

We have a project running at present on the use of OpenLearn by U3A members and if you are interested in taking part please contact me, Alan Morris, The Third Age Trust, via email: alandbev.morris@tiscali.co.uk

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This Newsletter appears bi-monthly. The next edition will be 20th January 2009. Please send items for publication to Terry Lomax, (email or disc in Word preferable, but hand written or typed will do

E-mail: newslettereditor@mbmu3a.org.uk Any stories, articles or photographs of interest to members are welcomed.

Note: closing date for next edition: 9th January

If you would like to get the newsletter early by e-mail on a PDF file for faster downloading and save printing and postage costs, please let Terry know at the above email address.

The 22nd Annual ‘Traditional’ ‘Winter Wonderland 2008’

Saturday 6th December 1pm to 4pm

**Loads of Free Parking in Surrounding Schools
Special Arrival of Santa and the Snow Queen by
Carriage and Horses at 1pm**

Street Entertainers, Morris Men, Children' s Rides, The Fabulous ‘Pantomics’ Steel Band, Local School Choirs, New Mills Brass Band, Stalls, Free Parking, Santa and the Snow Queen in their Special Grotto, and Much Much More!

<http://www.marplebridgeassociation.org.uk/>

**Organised by Marple Bridge Association
Town Street, Marple Bridge**



Solution to Crossword Across:

1 Subcontractors; 9 Torpedo; 10 Deep sea; 11 Die; 12 Misconstrue; 13 Globe; 15 Edwardian; 18 No account; 19 React; 20 Acknowledge; 24 Gum; 26 Measure; 27 Aircrew; 28 Vice-Chancellor.

Down:

1 Sited; 2 Barcelona; 3 Oleum; 4 Trousseau; 5 Audio; 6 Treasurer; 7 Riser; 8 Hazelnut; 13 Gendarme; 14 Enclosure; 16 Withdrawn; 17 Inaugural; 21 Khaki; 22 Leech; 23 Eerie; 25 Mower.