

## Newsletter – March 2025

### Chairman's Chit Chat....

Now that our AGM is over, it's the start of our 2025 year. Before it ended we had the pleasure of presenting a cheque to Greg Kelly on behalf of St. Ann's Hospice amounting to £1106.40 which you have so generously supported. The April meeting raised £212.15 so the final total came to £1328.55. My thanks to you all.



This year's charity is Headway – supporting people with head injuries. We hope to have a speaker who will tell us about the support they give. I know you will continue your generosity this year again. Unfortunately we lost Malcolm as a committee member, however we were pleased that one person has stepped forward to join us. Anyone else in the meantime could volunteer, we can easily co-opt you. We also need new members. Try and persuade your friends and neighbours to sign up as new members. The more the merrier.

My questionnaire regarding a proposed Games Group has yielded some response I'm pleased to say. So far 9 members expressed an interest so I will now look for a suitable date and venue. Perhaps more people will join once we are established. I'm looking forward to it.

Now that we are in March, I will once again be looking to see if my hedgehog Hector will make an appearance this year. This is usually the time they come out of hibernation. I will keep you posted. Let's make 2025 another good year.



A small token was presented by the Chair, Diane to Hazel Bhatt and Malcolm Moss for their commitment to our u3a over many years, for which we express our many grateful thanks. We wish them a happy "retirement" from their respective positions but who will no doubt continue to support us as members. Malcolm will of course remain as the Newsletter Editor. A token was also sent to Kath Leigh for her commitment to our u3a, as Kath was unable to attend the meeting. Dia

## Notices & other News Items

### Marple Bridge & Mellor u3a Meetings Speakers

- |          |                     |   |
|----------|---------------------|---|
| Mar 20th | Kevin & Joy Siddall | - SHOW-TALKS: songs and stories<br>Our performances are a mix of songs and stories that last around 60 minutes. We sing and tell stories about the songs, accompanied by high quality backing tracks, an acoustic guitar and on occasions a ukulele, using our own PA system. |
| Apr 17th | Simon Michael       | Crime writer  |
| May 15th | Haroon Akram        | The work of ROCU and how to protect against scams and fraud   |

# Summer School Courses 2025

## Tuesday 12th – Friday 15th August

### Manchester Metropolitan University

#### Central Manchester Location

#### **Magical Minerals and Twisted Yarns – archaeology around Cottonopolis**

**Tutor Maggy Simms**

Manchester became the world's first industrial city in the 19th century. Based firmly in textile production, it attracted the nickname "Cottonopolis". But in the rush to create wealth, the older past was damaged, scattered and largely lost. In our few days together we'll explore the sites that throw light on what that distant past looked like.

#### **An Introduction to Ancient Egypt**

**Tutor Neil Stevenson**

This course is aimed at anyone interested in learning about Ancient Egypt, from the pre-dynastic to Greco-Roman period, covering four thousand years of Egyptian History. The course is suitable for complete beginners with no prior knowledge and those with some knowledge and a desire to learn more.

#### **Literature**

**Tutor Meg Shaw**

*'I have something to say'*. We shall listen to three voices, three novelists over three centuries, who spun their yarns around Manchester, Elizabeth Gaskell, Howard Spring and Jeanette Winterson.

It will be useful to read any of their works but please include *'Mary Barton'* Elizabeth Gaskell, *'Fame is the Spur'* Howard Spring and *'Oranges are not the only Fruit'* Jeanette Winterson.

We hope to visit Elizabeth Gaskell's House for which there will be a charge.

#### **Art: A Pot Pourri**

**Tutor Gill Baynes**

This course will not follow specific artists or Art movements but will consider various themes pertaining to Art.

There will be a presentation on The history of Art in Four Colours – Red, Blue, Green and Yellow/Gold. There will be a session considering Gardens and Art. Then there will be a presentation about The Artist's Muse and finally a session on Art Heists.

#### **Art Challenges**

**Tutor Jacqueline Cartwright**

The Art Challenge for Summer School will consider the 'Significance of Colour'. Some of the things that we will look at are:

The Psychology of Colour, Colour Palettes and the effect of Line, Shape & Texture on Colour. We will then apply these to subjects such as Landscape, Movement, Dreams and Emotions, etc.

The course is suitable for all abilities as over-riding any skills is the willingness to open up your own creativity.

Explore and have Fun.

#### **Folk Music**

**Tutor Gill Russell**

The course will focus primarily on British Music but will possibly incorporate music from other cultures. We will learn about the origin and development of folk music and look at the work of Cecil Clark and others who created collections of folk songs. Of course, we can't learn about folk music without learning some of the songs so we'll form a folk group to sing and play together.

**Full Board Residential Delegate; £430**

**Non-Residential Day Delegate: £215**

**Don't miss out on booking your place!**

**Information and booking details [https:// northwesternregion.u3asite.uk/summer-school-2025/](https://northwestregion.u3asite.uk/summer-school-2025/)**

## Are we a nation of tea drinkers ?

Recently, when we visited Glasgow, we were once again taken to the Rennie Macintosh tea room for afternoon tea. What a disappointment! We had no white tablecloth, no cake only sandwiches, and worst of all, tea came in a mug poured by the waiter. Where were the dainty china cups and saucers, milk jug and freshly brewed tea in a teapot of our last visit ? People were upset.

Most people take milk but should it go in before the tea or after ? Would you care for lemon instead or a herb tea or even a coffee as your preferred beverage? Interesting conversations can arise, as follows.

Many years ago in New York we arrived down for breakfast and waiting eagerly by our table a young waiter was poised. "Coffee, ma'am?"

I waved my English Breakfast teabag at him.

"No thanks, could I have some water please?"

"You want cold water?"

"Very hot, preferably boiling"

He went off and came back with a steaming jug.

"You want lemon wid dat?"

"No, milk please"

"You want hat milk."

"No, cold milk."

"You're gonna put cold milk in that hat tea - and drink it?"

"Yes, that's the idea"

"Jeez", he said, shaking his head as he walked off. Weird English.

BUT the next morning he did get it right the first time!



JS

---

## Strolling Group

### Tuesday April 1st Colin Burkitt 10 00 Start

Meet outside Greggs in Marple in time to get the 10.00 am bus to New Mills.

This stroll is a continuation of the stroll we did last year from Hague Bar to New Mills.

We will stroll down past New Mills station to the river, along the Millenium Walkway and then follow the river around, under the bridges and out into the countryside, until we join the canal. We return along the canal to Newtown. Then we stroll back to New Mills bus station to get the bus back to Marple at 11.51am. The stroll is fairly flat except for the hill down to the river past the station. The paths are pretty good but after rain maybe a bit muddy in places.

Enjoy a drink and possibly some lunch when we get back to Marple.



### Tuesday May 6th Jane Hallam

Meet outside Greggs in Marple in time to get the 385 bus at 10.52 to Shiloh Road Mellor.

We will stroll around exploring the area.

More details later.

### Tuesday June 3rd Ursula Southworth

### Tuesday July 1st Rose Dewhurst

### Tuesday August 5th Jenny Summers/Shirley Hammond

*Shirley Hammond*

## Open Gardening Group

Meetings on 2nd Wednesday of each month at Marple Methodist Hall, 09:45 for coffee then 10:00 for the meeting. All u3a members welcome. £3 per meeting. Do come along.

April 9 Trip – Bodnant Gardens

May 14 Joyce Reed – Friends of Marple Memorial Park Volunteer

Joyce will talk to us about the history of the park, and tell us about all the changes taking place, and the park going forward.



## Dining Group

Please remember all members of the MB&M u3a can come on any of our meals. Just check the venues we have booked and the menu choice, if you like the look of it just email or phone Pat to check there's a place and book. You can now also do a bank transfer once you have booked.



March 26th, Wednesday The Maple Tree,

6 Town Street Marple Bridge SK6 5DS

Prawn crackers + Mixed platter + Main course £28

April 30th Wednesday Peruga @ The Three Bears

Jacksons Lane Hazel Grove SK7 5JH

Three course meal including Coffee £25

Pat Walker

## Crossword Compiled by Marple Bridge and Mellor u3a Crossword Group

compiled jointly by u3a Crossword Group

Across

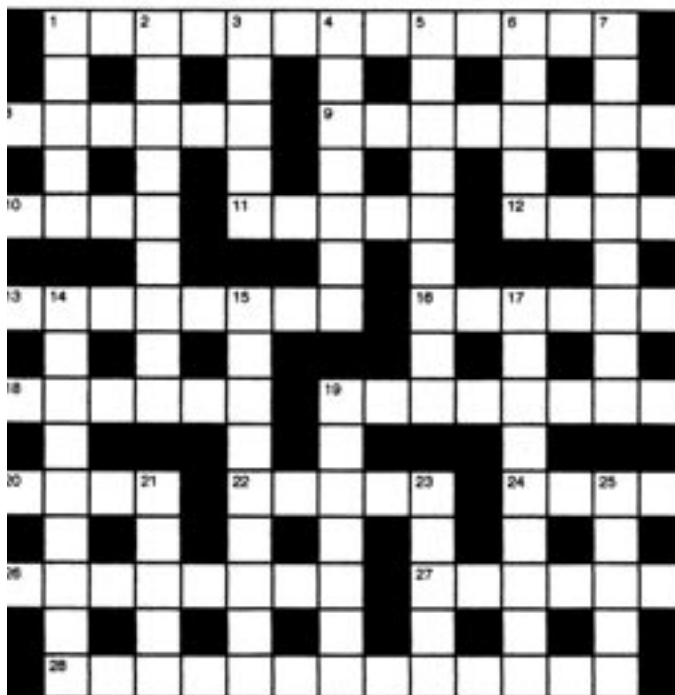
1. Reaping coffee around olive branch. (5,8)
8. Jacket for warplane. (6)
9. Orchestrate leap with work where chords, I hear, are made. (4,4)
10. Someone's lurid writing contains insult. (4)
11. One was on horseback with love for cowboy roundup (5)
12. Want to be born on first day. (4)
13. A rip off from a rascal. (8)
16. Enormous collections of books are very biased. (6)
18. An insertion gets us in trouble. (6)
19. Oddly mail once to industrial workplace. (8)
20. Decline the offer of exotic asps. (4)
22. Upgrade in opera is expected. (5)
24. Snakes pass out. (4)
26. Laugh at abnormal lurid ice. (8)
27. Honoured when I'd heal fracture. (6)
28. Person after famous Rembrandt painting id not sleeping. (5,8)

Clues Down

1. Roam around front of boat while on lake. (5)
2. Injured bear's grim secretion. (9)
3. Topless threat - it's a mistake! (5)
4. Physicist took Fay round drama school. (7)
5. Rapture about black spurge-type plant. (9)
6. State resident wants British Isle and article. (5)
7. Lady with top covered in state of Texas. (9)

Clues down cont.

14. Schooling faulty - action due. (9)
15. Vessel for collecting rain had wet back side. (5,4)
17. Facility for many mugs I train. (9)
19. Fancy cooked rice with ham? (7)
21. Wings move to and fro. (5)
23. Moral code hidden in privet, hickory. (5)
25. Work at looking good, leading - particularly regarding every effort noticed. (5)



## Outings Group

Saturday March 29th –EVITA @ The Plaza Stockport, 2.15 p.m. fully booked. Waiting list for returns.

Saturday matinee, 26th April 2.30p.m. performance

ABIGAIL'S PARTY. Please collect your ticket (s) at the General meeting, Thursday 20th March. Fully booked.

Sunday, 15th June – the EATON ESTATE of the DUKE OF WESTMINSTER, nr Chester. Fully Booked. Coach is leaving Rose Hill at 9.30 am, with the usual pickups – Regent, Marple Bridge, Northumberland Arms, finally Romiley Arms @ 9.50 am. Please be in good time. Return: proposed leaving approx. at 4.00p.m. (depending on the weather!) Golden Green coaches

Saturday, 16th August – LYTHAM 1940s WEEKEND

Further to the above outing, a feel good day out by the seaside celebrating the atmosphere of the period with so much to see and join in. Cost £21 p.p.

Usual pickups after leaving Rose Hill at 8.30 am, Regent, Marple Bridge, Northumberland Arms and finally Romiley Arms at 8.50 am.

Booking at Outings desk on 20th March.

Forward planning !



Those of us at the AGM in January will remember Roger Brown flagging up the STOCKPORT OPERATIC SOCIETY production of ANYTHING GOES . We have provisionally booked tickets at a cost of £21 p.p. Saturday matinee 25th OCTOBER at 2.15p.m. As usual good seats in the stalls. We need to confirm and pay by MAY 15th.

Booking starting at the general meeting 20th March.

*Any queries: Please contact J Summers (07388236537)*

---

## *Members who are Unwell or in Hospital*

**So often we hear about members who have been ill, who have been in hospital or need a bit of cheering up, weeks after it has happened so if you know someone like this please let Olwyn Wych (almoner@mbmu3a.org.uk or 0161 285 6766) know, or any member of the committee, so that we can send a little card to let them know we are thinking of them.**

## CONTACTS

Chairman: Diane

chairman@mbmu3a.org.uk

Vice Chairman: Clare

vicechairman@mbmu3a.org.uk

Secretary: Barbara

secretary@mbmu3a.org.uk

Treasurer: Mike

treasurer@mbmu3a.org.uk

Group Co-ordinator: Sue

groupcoordinator@mbmu3a.org.uk

Ast. Group Co-ordinator: Ulla

Membership Secretary: Colin

membershipsecretary@mbmu3a.org.uk

Speaker Organiser: Clare

speakerorganiser@mbmu3a.org.uk

Almoner: Olwyn

almoner@mbmu3a.org.uk

Assistant Almoner: Pat

assistantalmoner@mbmua.org.uk

Newsletter Editor: Malcolm

newslettereditor@mbmu3a.org.uk

Outings: Lesley

outings@mbmu3a.org.uk

Systems Manager: Colin

systemsmanager@mbmu3a.org.uk

Website:

www.mbm.u3asite.uk

National Website:

www.u3a.org.uk

National Office:

The Third Age Trust

52 Lant Street,

London, SE1 1RB



## Newsletter items .....

Thank you to the people who have submitted articles for inclusion in past Newsletters,  
*can we have some more please !!!*

Things that have happened to you in the past, funny or serious, items that you think could be of interest to our members.

You don't need to have your name published with the article, if you do not wish to, but I do need to know who has sent the article.

Put your thinking caps on and let's try to make the Newsletter more interesting for all our readers.

*Malcolm, Newsletter Editor*

## Jigsaw Sales at Monthly Meetings.

*Please don't bring Jigsaws with pieces missing*  
We have a table selling 2nd HAND Jigsaw Puzzles at our monthly meetings. Please bring some along and buy another one.

## Book Sales at the Meetings

Due to the limited amount of storage space and the fact that hardback books and non fiction books are not popular, it is requested that paperback fiction books only are brought for the stall.

*Please do not bring any magazines as these also do not sell*

**Crossword Solution**  
Across: 1. Peace Offering 8. Bomber 9. Rope Walk 10. Stir  
11. Rodeo 12. Need 13. Tearaway 16. Bigots 18. Gusset  
19. Coalmine 20. Pass 22. Raise 24. Asp 26. Ridicule 27. Hailed  
28. Night watchman  
Down: 1. Prowl 2. Ambergris 3. Error 4. Faraday 5. Euphorbia 6.  
Iowan 7. Galveston 14. Educatio15. Water Butt 17. Gymnasium 19.  
Chimera 21. Swing 23. Ethic 23. 25. Preen

This Newsletter appears bi-monthly. The next edition will be published in May 2025

Please send items for publication by email

to [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.mbm3a.org.uk](http://www.mbm3a.org.uk)

**All contributions for the next edition of the Newsletter should be received by Friday 2nd May AT THE LATEST**